Birds in Wales
Adar yng Nghymru

Welsh Bird Report - 2018 - Adroddiad Adar Cymru

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Welsh Bird Report No. 32: 2018

Edited by Julian Hughes

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Front cover: Merlin (Tony Pope). Back cover: Short-eared Owl (Cameron Sharp)

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WELSH BIRD REPORT NO. 32: 2018

Review of the birding year 2018

The weather had a greater influence on Wales' birdlife than in some recent years, as the mild 2017-18 winter concluded with a brief but cold hiatus at the end of February and into early March. The immediate consequence was an influx of birds from farther east into Wales, with increased counts of Scaup, Woodcock, Blackbird, Fieldfare and Redwing among others. Large numbers of Golden Plovers moved west, including a site record number over Bardsey, and large numbers of gulls fed off eastern Anglesey in the wake of the gales.

Birdwatchers reported an impact on several species that lasted further into the breeding season, with fewer Little Egret nests and a reduction in the number of Cetti's Warbler territories in their Gwent stronghold. In the short-term, the cold snap may well have stymied the colonisation of North Wales by Dartford Warblers and set back the population in south and west Wales, but the long-term increase will probably only be slowed, not stemmed. A number of early Chough nests failed as April storm surges washed into west-facing caves, and others will have struggled to get into breeding condition given the frozen ground conditions.

Several small-bodied resident species were scarcer in Breeding Bird Surveys than the previous year, notably Goldcrest (-56%), Grey Wagtail (-52%), Stonechat (-37%), Long-tailed Tit (-36%), Bullfinch (-35%), Reed

Chough (Jonathan Bull)

Bunting (-30%), Treecreeper (-25%), Robin (-21%), Wren (-18%) and Skylark (-18%). Song Thrushes were also down, -33%. Some or all of these species could have been affected by the freezing conditions at a critical time.

The cold snap delayed the onset of spring, evident from monitoring of birds such as Dipper, but this was followed by a warm dry summer that resulted in the soil surface drying out in many areas, shortening the nesting season for some species that depend on aerial invertebrates and making life difficult for ground-foragers such as Chough.

Breeding seabirds

The fortunes of Wales' seabird colonies continues to vary by species, though it will be a couple more years before the results of the UK Breeding Seabird Census 2015-19 provides the big picture. At colonies counted in 2018, Fulmar and Kittiwake had more losers than winners, but most of the monitored Guillemot and Razorbill colonies were up. Manx Shearwater and Puffin reached a new high at their largest Welsh colonies on Skomer, with 350,000 and 30,895 active burrows respectively. Sandwich Tern numbers were lower at Cemlyn, their only Welsh breeding site, but had a more productive season than the previous year, while the only Little Tern colony, at Gronant, reached a new high and good numbers fledged. A pair of Roseate Terns bred successfully on The Skerries, the first in Wales since 2006, and numbers of Arctic Terns here were significantly up on 2017.

Breeding landbirds

Of the 58 species for which Breeding Bird Survey trends can be produced in Wales for 1995-2017, 24 have declined, two are unchanged and 32 have increased. Six species have declined by more than 50%: Swift (-69%), Greenfinch (-69%), Starling (-68%), Yellowhammer (-62%) and Rook (-60%). Curlew numbers are down by 68% and only 20-22 nests were confirmed, illustrating the big trouble this formerly widespread species is in.

There are seven species in the all-time 'amber' bracket (-25 to -49%): Wheatear (-42%), Goldcrest (-46%) Chaffinch (-29%), Whitethroat (-28%), Garden Warbler (-25%), Coal Tit (-25%) and, perhaps of surprise to many people, Magpie (-27%).

All-time trend (58 species)

One year change (60 species)

Decline >50%	Increase <25%
Decline >25% and <50%	Increase >25% and <50%
Decline <25%	Increase >50%

The change in a single year can be more variable, often a product of the weather in the preceding months or breeding season. Of the 60 species for which that change can be monitored between 2017 and 2018, 36 declined in that one year, one was unchanged and 23 increased. Great Tit and Blue Tit have shown declines of -20% and -14% respectively since 2010, but actually increased between 2017 and 2018. Several summer migrants are also showing short-term declines that cannot be related to the cold winter weather in Wales, including Willow Warbler (-28%) and Chiffchaff (-20%) in one year, while over the last five years Wheatear numbers are down 35%, Redstart by 25%, Swallow by 17% and House Martin by 23%.

There is a long list of species that are too scarce to generate a BBS trend graph, for which records from birdwatchers are especially important. Reports of nesting Lapwings came from only 23 sites, although the biggest colonies (all on nature reserves) had a productive breeding season. Only around 70 Redshank territories were reported, of which 28 were at RSPB Ynys-hir, Ceredigion. In the uplands, 16-19 pairs of Golden Plovers and no more than three Dunlin territories were reported; of 55 drumming/chipping Snipe, 33 were at a single site where Natural Resources Wales has been undertaking management; and while surely under-recorded, only 12-18 Merlin territories and a handful of nesting Short-eared Owls were found. Across Wales there were only three records of territorial Woodcock, 20 Lesser Spotted Woodpecker locations and 54 Willow Tit sites during the breeding season. Hawfinches were recorded from 15 locations in the breeding season, with a healthy population evident in the Wye Valley. Only one nesting attempt by Tree Sparrow was confirmed in Wales, but by contrast to parts of urban England, the House Sparrow population in Wales has remained stable for the last decade, 82% above its 1994 level.

Curlew (Tony Pope)

Scarce species

Caernarfon Bay continues to attract good numbers of Great Northern Divers late each winter, with 89 in April being the second highest count achieved from land.

Among our rarer breeding species not mentioned above, Black Grouse were slightly down on their 2017 numbers, but reports of Red Grouse increased a little. Bitterns and Marsh Harriers bred for the third consecutive year, Ospreys nested in Denbighshire for the first time and two pairs of Cranes hatched chicks in South Wales. Six pairs of Bearded Tit nested at Newport Wetlands, their only Welsh breeding site, two pairs of Yellow Wagtail nested in Gwent, and a couple of pairs of Black Redstarts may have bred in mid Wales. It was a blank year for breeding Mediterranean Gulls, but 14-30 pairs of Hobby indicates a strengthening population.

Several potential breeders continued their expansion, most notably Cattle Egret and Great White Egret, both of which achieved new record annual totals; 10 Great Whites in Gower in November is a new Welsh flock record. It was a rather unexceptional autumn for scarce passage waders, with relatively few Wood Sandpipers, Curlew Sandpipers and Little Stints, though three Buff-breasted Sandpipers together in Pembrokeshire was notable, and Storm Bronagh brought multiple Grey Phalaropes onshore in September, including several inland. 2018 was almost a non-event for Little Auks (two records) and Waxwings (4-6 birds), while five records of Turtle Dove is the lowest since records began.

The post-breeding influx of Mediterranean Gulls, many from the Netherlands and Baltic Sea, is now an annual event on the west coast, with counts of up to 720 birds in Ceredigion, and the Pembrokeshire record was broken on Skokholm on 4 November, when 407 fed in Broad Sound.

A Hooded Merganser at Kidwelly Quay, Carmarthenshire, on 7 October was the only new species to be added to the Welsh List in 2018, although there are several additions at a subspecies level (see Reg Thorpe and Adrienne Stratford's paper on page 218). For many birdwatchers, the opportunity to see a Snowy Owl in Pembrokeshire and Anglesey - and for the very determined, on a mountain in Meirionnydd - was the rarity highlight of the year. It was a record year for Rose-coloured Starlings, with 17 birds.

The first winter period saw the remainder of the autumn 2017 influx of Hawfinches from Scandinavia, including large flocks in southeast Wales and a county record in Caernarfonshire. The second winter period produced some large gatherings of Brambling, including a flock of 1000 in Breconshire.

Wintering waterbirds

The decline in some species is becoming evident as each year passes, and the publication of 'alerts' by the Wetland Bird Survey partnership (Woodward 2019) highlights many of these, including long-term red alerts for Bewick's Swan, Pochard, Scaup, Eider, Grey Plover, Ringed Plover and Bar-tailed Godwit. The wider UK picture indicates that many are stopping short of Wales, either in Scotland (from Iceland/Greenland) or England/Netherlands (from Russia). The report also highlights a decline in the waterbird assemblage on two of the most important sites for waterbirds in Wales: the Burry Inlet (-20%) and the Dee estuary (-23%).

WeBS trends were produced for 56 species (for waders and wildfowl, the series start in 1974 and 1966 respectively; see individual species accounts). Excluding three naturalised species – Canada Goose, Barnacle Goose and Ruddy Duck – 17 have declined and 36 increased during the period of monitoring. Of the declining species, 11 are down by more than 50% and two by at least 25%.

The change in a single year can be more variable, often a product of temperatures and ice cover elsewhere in Europe but can also be an indicator of breeding productivity during the previous breeding season. Of

the 53 species monitored in both 2016/17 and 2017/18, the index for nine declined by more than 50% and another seven by at least 25%.

Ringing records

The highlights from ringing stations are included in the relevant species accounts below, including from Wales' two bird observatories on Bardsey and Skokholm, and other major sites such as Oxwich Marsh NNR and Newport Wetlands Reserve Uskmouth. Ringers and nest recorders provide the only information about nesting success, and this year's combined figures indicate below-average fledging for Chough and Pied Flycatcher, and while Great Tit and Blue Tit both had reasonable seasons, productivity was below the level of summer 2017.

Lee Barber's ringing report (page 204) also includes some notable recoveries including a Storm Petrel ringed on Skokholm in early August and re-caught on the Faroe Islands just nine days later, a Great Spotted Woodpecker that has been caught multiple times in the same Rhayader garden over 11 years, and from Portugal came a ring that had been attached to a Pied Flycatcher in the Conwy Valley almost 25 years previously! Several longevity records were broken too, including a Chough in Caernarfonshire and a Puffin on Skomer that are the oldest of their species ever known in Britain and Ireland, and the oldest known Little Tern in the world nested at Gronant.

Weather summary for Wales in 2018

This summary is based on the Met. Office monthly summaries for Wales at **metoffice.gov.uk/climate/uk/summaries/2018** and, for river flows, the National Hydrological Monitoring Programme at **nrfa.ceh.ac.uk/monthly-hydrological-summary-uk**.

The year was warmer than average for the UK, as we have almost come to expect in recent years, 0.6°C above the 1981-2010 average (the time period used as the 'long term average' in the monthly summaries below), the seventh warmest since records began in 2010. Eight months recorded average temperatures higher than normal, including several by 2°C or more.

Two main features affected the fortunes of birds during the year: a severe cold spell in late February/early March (nicknamed 'The Beast from the East' by the UK media), and a prolonged dry spell during spring and the first half of summer, which led to a severe drawdown in wetland habitats, and many freshwater springs and streams drying out. Summer 2018 was the equal warmest in the last century, alongside 1976, 2003 and 2006.

The second half of winter 2017/18 continued as it had started, with Atlantic weather systems bringing unsettled weather and average temperatures through **January**. Storm Eleanor brought gales and heavy rain on 2nd-3rd, giving way to cold nights and clear days in the middle of the month, with snow on high ground. Storm Georgina brought more gales on 24th, again clearing to milder weather, up to 14.8°C in Rhyl at the end of the month. Temperatures in Wales were 0.7°C above average and rainfall was 20% above average.

The first fortnight of **February** brought a series of rain belts from the west, interspersed with cold winds drawn from the north and east that brought sleet and snow showers to high ground. A settled spell mid-month belied an easterly airflow and widespread snow in the final week. From 27th, there were several centimetres of snow across much of Wales, even at sea level, and a daytime maximum of only -4.8°C at Lake Vyrnwy. Mean temperature was 1.2°C below average and rainfall was average except in the southeast, where it was 25% lower than usual.

The 'Beast from the East' continued into the first few days of **March**, with overnight temperatures as low as -9.4°C on the 1st, and a daytime maximum of -4.7°C in Tredegar. Strong winds caused drifting snow, in excess of 50cm, in central and south Wales, and then a combination of melting snow and heavy rain from the 9th raised water levels in many rivers. That week of milder, wet conditions gave way to another spell of widespread snow and cool easterly winds around the 17th/18th, but while eastern Britain and much of northern Europe chilled, for Wales it was not on the scale or extent of the earlier freeze. Analysis of the Breeding Bird Survey results for 2018 indicate that this cold end to winter hit small, resident bird species hard, as natural food resources are at their lowest during this 'hunger gap'. The mean temperature for March was 1.7°C below the long-term average, while rainfall in the last 10 days pushed the month's total to 130% of the average, even higher in the east and south.

April started cold, with lying snow and a maximum temperature of just 1.4°C at Sennybridge on the 1st. Much of the month was unsettled save for a sunny warm spell between the 18th and 21st, the temperature reaching 24.7°C at Trawsgoed on the last date. It took a while for vegetation to recover from the cold snap, and most observations suggested many plants and insects were two or three weeks behind their usual state at the end of April. Summer migrant birds were also slow to arrive, put down to the northerly airflow that extended all the way through Europe and into north Africa. The mean temperature was 1°C above the long-term average, with 135% of average rainfall.

Following a cool, unsettled start to **May**, the airflow swung to the east, bringing a warm and sunny month. Clear skies resulted in frosty nights and misty, cool mornings at the end of the second week. The mercury continued to rise, peaking at 26.8°C at Hawarden on the 27th, and the mean temperature was 1.2°C above the 1981-2010 average. Rainfall was only 75% of average and sunshine hours were 25% above average.

The warm and settled conditions continued well into **June**, good news for ground and hedge-nesting birds. Westerly winds brought an unsettled spell from the 13th to 20th, with Storm Hector bringing unseasonally strong winds on the 14th that were not welcomed by cliff-nesting seabirds. From the 21st, high pressure brought dry weather and almost unbroken sunshine to most of the country, and it turned increasingly hot during the last few days. The mean temperature was 2.2°C above the long-term average, making it the warmest June in a series from 1910, with Porthmadog having several days above 30°C and a peak of 33°C on the 28th. It was also the fourth-driest June since 1910, with just 22% of average rainfall.

The dry, sunny and very warm weather continued into **July**, with rainfall very scarce until the final few days. For multi-brooded birds, the warm weather in May/June had been good news, but the increasingly desiccated landscape was less favourable for second broods, and ringers reported smaller broods or even complete failure. River flows during June/July were all notably or exceptionally low, at record levels on the Dee (mainly Denbighshire) and the Yscir (mainly Brecon) at just 16% and 28% of the long-term average respectively. In July, the Teifi (Ceredigion) ran at 19% of the long-term average. Groundwater levels remained typical in the north, but were notably below average in South Wales. For much of the month, daytime temperatures were well into the 20s Celsius, though dropped sharply on 28th (e.g. 14.5°C at Lake Vyrnwy and gusts of 68mph at Aberdaron). The mean temperature was 2°C above the long-term average, the joint third warmest July since 1910. Rainfall was 68% of average and sunshine was 140% of average, making it the seventh sunniest July since 1929.

The first week of **August** was mostly settled and warm with variable amounts of cloud, culminating in localised thunderstorms, such as in Prestatyn which had 90mm of rain on the 12th. The rest of the month was generally cloudy and unsettled, with westerly winds, followed by cooler and brighter weather in the last week, and even overnight frost at St Harmon on the 31st. Strong winds in northwest Wales on 19th

Grey Phalarope (Bob Garrett)

pushed a few Balearic and larger shearwaters to western watchpoints. Mean temperature was 0.2°C above average, and it continued to be dry in North Wales but rainfall was close to average elsewhere.

September started and ended with predominantly settled weather, sandwiching a fortnight of wet conditions with westerly winds. A triptych of named storms on successive days, Helene on the 18th, Ali on the 19th and Bronagh on the 20th brought gusty winds of up to 77mph and the best seabird passage of the year, with skuas and shearwaters along the western seaboard, Grey Phalaropes scattered around the country and a Bardsey record count of Arctic Terns. The mean temperature was 0.4°C below the long-term average and Wales had 24% more rainfall than average.

Much of **October** was sunny, warm and dry, with unseasonally warm conditions in the second week, when Porthmadog reached 24.1°C and Margam's overnight low was 16.5°C. An interlude came with Storm Callum on the 11th, with an 86mph gust at Capel Curig and 159.8mm of rain in 24 hours at Libanus. The last week saw the first taste of winter, with a daytime max. of 4.2°C at Lake Vyrnwy and night-time min. of -8.6°C at St Harmon. The mean temperature was 0.2°C below the long-term average, entirely due to colder-than-average nights, and rainfall was 20% below average.

November began cold and sunny, but was otherwise mostly mild and changeable, windy at times, especially towards the end of the month when gusts to 90mph were recorded at Capel Curig. The mean temperature was 0.7°C above the long-term average, with a peak of 17.3°C at Trawsgoed. Wales as a whole had 105% of average rainfall, although that masks dry conditions in the north and a wetter-than-average month in west Wales.

December was another mild and cloudy month, with daytime temperatures reaching 14.8°C in Rhyl on the 2nd and not falling below 11.2°C in Milford Haven that night. A brief ridge of high pressure extending from Scandinavia brought a cooler few days and frosty nights mid-month, ending abruptly with sleet and freezing rain courtesy of Storm Deirdre. The mean temperature was 2.5°C above the long-term average,

and it was the joint fifth mildest December in a series from 1910. Rainfall was 121% of average and it was the dullest December since records began in 1929.

BIRD RECORDING IN WALES

The vast majority of records used to compile the Welsh Bird Report, and the data presented from national recording schemes, are collected by enthusiastic and knowledgeable volunteers. We sometimes lament our lack of knowledge about birds in Wales, but it is far more complete thanks to this army of unpaid expertise than it would otherwise be. The backbone of this huge collation of records is the bird clubs and the network of county bird recorders that they support. A list of bird reports appears on page 220.

The Welsh Ornithological Society uses the Watsonian vice-county system (hereafter referred to as counties for simplicity) as the basis of bird recording in Wales, illustrated on the map overleaf (see the Ray Society, publication no. 146). This system largely matches the pre-1974 political administrative counties, but there are small differences shown on the map (see page 10).

UK SURVEY DATA COLLECTED IN WALES

This Report also uses statistics collected by four UK-wide monitoring schemes and one that collects birdwatchers' records from across the World.

Indices of around 60 breeding species are presented from the UK **Breeding Bird Survey**, where the species occurs in a minimum of 30 randomly-selected 1-km squares in Wales. These squares are visited twice each spring to record all the birds present, with habitat information also collected. The Breeding Bird Survey is run by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) and is jointly funded by the BTO, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)*. The latest results from the BTO Heronries Census are drawn from Massimino *et al*. 2019.

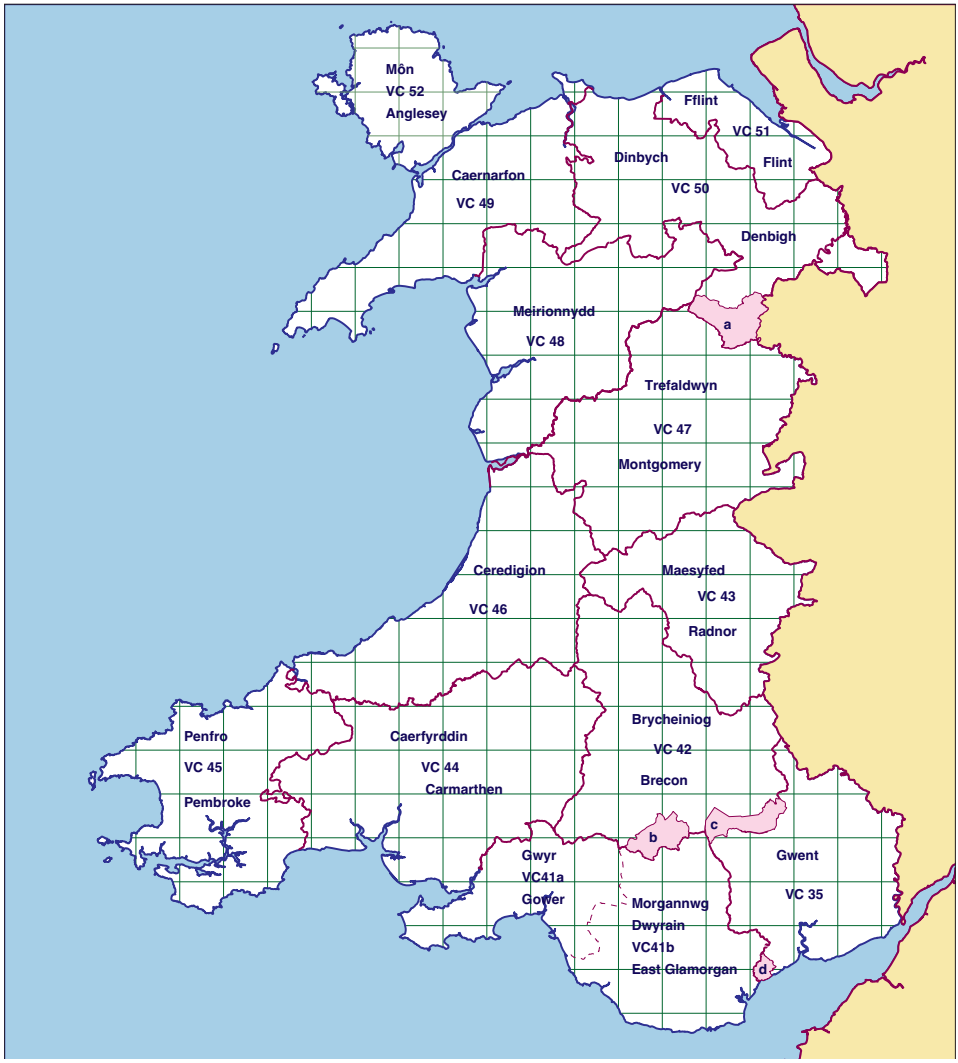
Indices of waterbirds in Wales are presented using data collected from the **Wetland Bird Survey**, the current incarnation of surveys to monitor ducks, geese, swans and waders since the 1960s, and which now extends to divers, grebes, cormorants, crakes/rails, gulls, terns and Kingfisher. Volunteers count all waterbirds present on estuaries, inland waterbodies and some stretches of open coast at high tide each month. WeBS is a partnership between the British Trust for Ornithology, the RSPB and the JNCC*, in association with the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust.

On the graphs shown in the systematic list, the blue dots show the annual index and the red line shows the smoothed trend. Headline figures for Wales from **BirdTrack** show the number of records received in Wales and, importantly, the proportion of 'complete lists' on which the species occurred during the year. BirdTrack lists convert unstructured sightings into data that can be analysed, as well as providing a platform for birdwatchers to maintain their records and submit them automatically to local bird recorders. BirdTrack is organised by the British Trust for Ornithology for the BTO, RSPB, BirdWatch Ireland, Scottish Ornithologists' Club and the Welsh Ornithological Society.

We encourage WOS members and Welsh Bird Report readers to register on **BirdTrack.net** and use it whenever you're birding, and for those who are able to commit to regular surveys, to contact their **BTO.org** regional representative.

* JNCC involvement in the partnerships listed is on behalf of the statutory nature conservation bodies: Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Northern Ireland, Natural England, Natural Resources Wales and Scottish Natural Heritage.

Finally, the Welsh Ornithological Society and all the county recorders in Wales support the work of the **Rare Breeding Birds Panel**, and most submitted records for 2018 by the deadline of 30 November 2019. Welsh data contributes to the UK RBBP annual report published in *British Birds*. To encourage greater coverage of the rare and scarce breeding species, their current Welsh status is shown in the relevant



Counties in Wales used for bird-recording. Note the zones that differ from the 'old' counties: in (a) records are maintained by both Denbighshire and Montgomeryshire recorders; those from (b) and (c), while historically in Breconshire, are maintained by recorders in East Glamorgan and Gwent respectively; area (d), while historically in Gwent, is part of the East Glamorgan recording area and follows the modern boundary of the Cardiff and Newport unitary authorities.

species headers here. All breeding evidence, including the presence of birds in suitable breeding habitat at the right time of year - including non-native species - is important to the assessment of the county, Welsh and UK populations of these rarer species. A list of the RBBP species that occur in Wales is on the WOS website: **https://birdsin.wales/overview-of-birds-in-wales/recording-rare-birds/**.

Rare and scarce birds in Wales

The **Welsh Birds Rarities Committee** (WBRC, formerly the Welsh Records Panel) is part of the Welsh Ornithological Society and considers records of all scarce species in Wales, defined as those occurring five times or fewer per year in Wales on average, but which are not on the list of species considered by the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC).

Descriptions can be submitted via county recorders or direct to the WBRC Secretary. Forms are available from county recorders or the Secretary. Any observer submitting a description to the WBRC can see its deliberations on the record on request. The Committee has five voting members and a non-voting Secretary; membership in 2018 comprised: Steve Stansfield - Bardsey (Chairman), Richard Brown – Skokholm and Pembrokeshire, Chris Jones – Denbighshire, Simon Murray – East Glamorgan and Gower, Paul Roberts – East Glamorgan, Robin Sandham – Caernarfonshire, and a non-voting Secretary, Jon Green – Ceredigion.

Not all records of species on these lists reach the relevant committee. Records not published here may never have been submitted or still be under consideration. It is helpful if descriptions of BBRC and WBRC species are submitted as soon as possible after the sighting.

Records should be submitted to BBRC through county recorders or in an electronic form ONLY to **secretary@bbrc.org.uk**. If it is a written or typed description. please send to the WBRC Secretary who will scan and send it on to BBRC.
Jon Green, Crud-yr-Awel, Bowls Road, Blaenporth, Cardigan SA43 2AR, email:
welshrarebirds@tiscali.co.uk.

Rose-coloured Starling (Cameron Sharp)

The full list of species which the Panel considered is as follows (including two from 1 January 2019):

Taiga Bean Goose
Tundra Bean Goose
American Wigeon
Green-winged Teal
Ring-necked Duck
Ferruginous Duck
Lesser Scaup
Surf Scoter
Smew
White-billed Diver
Wilson's Petrel
Cory's Shearwater
Great Shearwater
Red-necked Grebe
White Stork
Glossy Ibis
Night-heron
Purple Heron
Cattle Egret
Golden Eagle
Montagu's Harrier
Black Kite
White-tailed Eagle
Rough-legged Buzzard
Corncrake
Spotted Crake
Crane
Stone-curlew
American Golden Plover
Kentish Plover
Temminck's Stint
White-rumped Sandpiper
Buff-breasted Sandpiper
Pectoral Sandpiper
Red-necked Phalarope
Lesser Yellowlegs (from 2019)
Ring-billed Gull
Caspian Gull
White-winged Black Tern
Alpine Swift
Bee-eater
Red-footed Falcon
Red-backed Shrike
Woodchat Shrike
Golden Oriole
Penduline Tit
Bearded Tit*
Shore Lark
Short-toed Lark
Red-rumped Swallow
Dusky Warbler
Radde's Warbler
Pallas's Warbler
Greenish Warbler
Arctic Warbler (from 2019)
Blyth's Reed Warbler
Aquatic Warbler
Marsh Warbler
Melodious Warbler
Icterine Warbler
Barred Warbler
Rose-coloured Starling
Bluethroat
Nightingale
Red-flanked Bluetail
Red-breasted Flycatcher
Citrine Wagtail
Olive-backed Pipit
Tawny Pipit
Common Rosefinch
Common Redpoll (BBRC from 2019)
Arctic Redpoll
Parrot Crossbill
Serin
Corn Bunting
Ortolan Bunting
Cirl Bunting
Little Bunting
Rustic Bunting

*WBRC only assesses records away from Gwent/East Glamorgan where Bearded Tits breed.

Scarce subspecies are considered on the same basis, i.e. all those occurring on average five times or fewer annually. Examples considered by the WBRC are:

Black Brant Goose – *nigricans*
Iceland Gull – *kumlieni*
Common Guillemot – *hyperborea*
Razorbill – *torda*
Little Auk – *polaris*
Great Spotted Woodpecker – *major*
Bullfinch – *pyrrhula*
Siberian Chiffchaff – *tristis* (until end of 2018)
Treecreeper – *familaris*
Coal Tit – *ater*
Jay – *glandarius*
Jackdaw – *monedula*
Grey-headed Wagtail – *thunbergi*

TREATMENT OF RECORDS IN THE WELSH BIRD REPORT

The Systematic List covers the calendar year 2018 unless otherwise indicated. Species names and order follow the International Ornithological Congress taxonomy, but using vernacular names in English and Welsh that are widely used by birders. The species included in the main list are those placed by WOS in Category A (recorded in an apparently natural state in Wales at least once since 1 January 1950) or Category C (introduced species that have a self-sustaining population). A list of birds, to subspecies level, that have been recorded in Wales is available at **https://birdsin.wales/overview-of-birds-in-wales/welsh-rare-birds-committee/**.

For some species monthly maximum counts for the main sites are tabulated as available. Unless noted as WeBS, these figures are the peak counts recorded at each site in that month and do not represent coordinated counts on a single day. Some overlap may therefore occur, as birds move between sites. For some wildfowl, the numbers of breeding pairs are assessed by the number of males present during the breeding season.

WOS and county bird recorders have formally agreed the adoption of county names in both Welsh and English languages, which are shown on the website **birdsin.wales**. These reflect local usage, even though they vary in their use of the '-shire' suffix. These names are shown on the map on page 10, but for conciseness, the systematic list uses shortened forms (e.g. Brecon, not Breconshire).

Records from GLAMORGAN are split into E.GLAMORGAN or GOWER. Where sites border two vice-counties (mostly estuaries), records are shown based on the county from which they were seen, unless they were reported from both, for example on the well-watched Teifi estuary where birds are frequently reported from both Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion, so records are shown as PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION and the maximum number/date range is reported, even if the exact dates and numbers involved differ slightly from each side.

Most of RSPB Conwy nature reserve is in DENBIGH, but a very small part of the reserve lies in CAERNARFON. Much of RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands nature reserve is in Cheshire, but this report includes records where birds were known to have been in FLINT.

The records for some species are summarised to show the total recorded in each month for each county. Where a bird stayed into two or more months it is recorded for each month. In tables of early and late migrants, the most extreme date is shown in bold type. Where comparable counts are shown for breeding seabirds, those that are lower in the current year are shaded grey.

The conservation status of each species in Wales is noted as Red, Amber or Green species of conservation concern in Wales, based on Johnstone and Bladwell 2016.

It is the policy of the Society NOT TO PUBLISH in this Report any records of species on the list of the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC) or of the Welsh Birds Rarities Committee unless that record has been considered and accepted by the BBRC or WBRC. Where a species is on one of these lists, this is noted in the comment on status. All records have been accepted by the relevant body unless specifically stated otherwise.

Abbreviations used in the report

AOL	Adults on Land
AON	Apparently Occupied Nests
AOS	Apparently Occupied Sites
asl	above sea level
CP	Country Park
est.	estuary
GP	Gravel Pit
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
NR	Nature Reserve
NNR	National Nature Reserve (designated)
p.	Species present (in tables)
R.	River
Res.	Reservoir
RG	Ringing Group
WTW	Water Treatment Works

Birds are aged according to their calendar year, as transcribed in the table below.

Welsh Bird Report description	Non-calendar description
Juvenile	**Used only in relation to birds at nest/colony**
1CY	**Juvenile, 1st-winter (to 31 December)**
2CY	**1st-winter (from 1 Jan.), 1st-summer, 2nd-winter (to 31 Dec.)**
3CY	**2nd-winter (from 1 Jan.), 2nd-summer, 3rd-winter (to 31 Dec.)**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to every birdwatcher who submitted a record during 2018. This report would be nothing without you. And an even bigger thank you to the county recorders and bird report editors who compile their local reports, shared their draft reports and answered my queries so promptly.

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Julian Hughes, Editor.

Errata from 2017

p. 12. **Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis*. CAERNARFON: the fourth breeding attempt related to the Gwylan islands, part of the Bardsey Bird & Field Observatory recording area, not on Bardsey itself where the species has never bred.

p. 110 **Razorbill** *Alca torda*. PEMBROKE: there was no count in 2017 on Skomer, and the 2016 count shown should have been 7250 AOL; the figures shown related to Guillemot *Uria aalge*.

p.131 **Rook** *Corvus frugilegus*. E.GLAMORGAN: a substantial number of records were missed from the *Eastern Glamorgan Bird Report*. The correct figure should have been 496 AON at 17 rookeries (largest 67 at East Aberthaw).

MONTGOMERY: owing to an editorial oversight/cock-up, a number of records from the county were omitted. These have been added to the relevant entry in the systematic list in this Report.

SYSTEMATIC LIST

BRENT GOOSE *Branta bernicla* GWYDD DDU

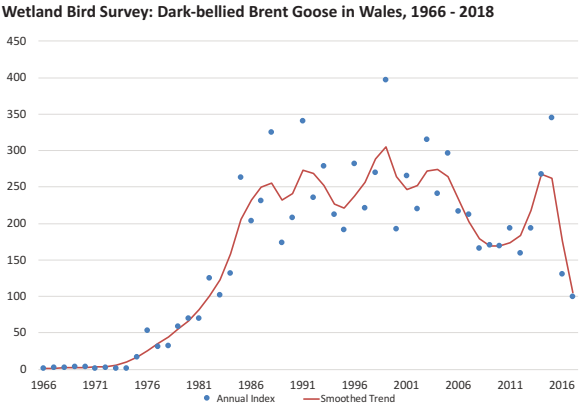
A regular wintering population is found in the Burry Inlet and on Anglesey. Elsewhere, small numbers are recorded in winter and on passage. Wales Green listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	289	314
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%

***B.b.bernicla* (Dark-bellied Brent Goose / Gŵydd Ddu Fol-dywyll)**

Amber WeBS alert: -36% long-term, greater than in England.

The annual Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales falls for its second consecutive year, to its lowest level since 1983.



Monthly max. at the main sites:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*		*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GOWER									
Whiteford	300	331	347	5		10	66	350	295
Weobley	360	900					139		140
Llanrhidian	8	242		14			20	74	98
Wernffwrd/Crofty	369	180	191				102	300	340
CARMARTHEN									
Penclacwydd	346	19	240				35	85	
Pwll		26					10	163	

Other large counts: GOWER: 144 at Broughton Bay on 24 Feb.; 232 at Landimore on 30 Oct.; 653 at Whiteford, Landimore and Salthouse Pill on 31 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: 126 at Machynys on 10 Jan. and 188 here on 2 Nov.; c.250 at Pembrey Harbour on 24 Dec.; ANGLESEY: 20 at Ynys Llanddwyn on 10 Jan.

***B.b.hrota* (Pale-bellied Brent Goose / Gŵydd Ddu Fol-olau)**

Numbers of pale-bellied *hrota* monitored by the Wetland Bird Survey have stabilised after more than a decade of growth. Monthly max. at the main sites:

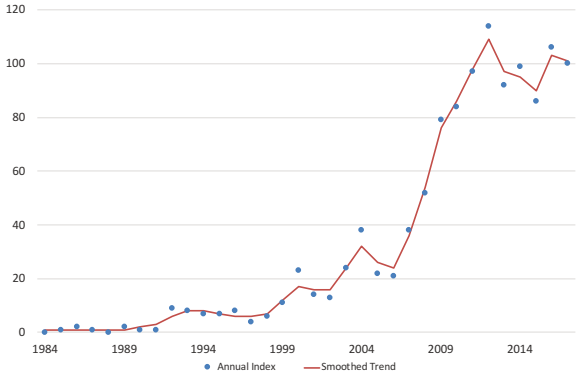
	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*		*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
CAERNARFON									
Foryd	60	28	150	131		35	208	139	163
Traeth Lafan	56	45	48	70			3	6	32
ANGLESEY									
Alaw estuary				283				222	178
Beddmanarch-Cymyran SSI	278	352	149				59	222	228
Traeth Melynog	125	160		38			76	172	233

Max. counts at other sites on ANGLESEY: four at Traeth Dulas, 34 near Penmon and seven at Traeth Bychan

in Jan.; 17 at Benllech and 16 at Traeth Lligwy in Feb.; 35 at Traeth Bychan and 150 on the Braint estuary in March; 10 on the Inland Sea in Sept.; five on Llyn Llywenan on 22 Nov.; 23 at Red Wharf Bay in Dec.; FLINT: 91 at Greenfield Dock on 1 Jan.

Ringing: CAERNARFON: two birds at Morfa Aber on 4 Jan. were ringed (PTRB and SIRB) at Axel Heiberg Island in Arctic Canada in July 2014, and were at Morfa Aber for the second year running.

Wetland Bird Survey: Pale-bellied Brent Goose in Wales, 1984 - 2018



Approximate monthly totals of both subspecies, excluding the above, are tabulated:

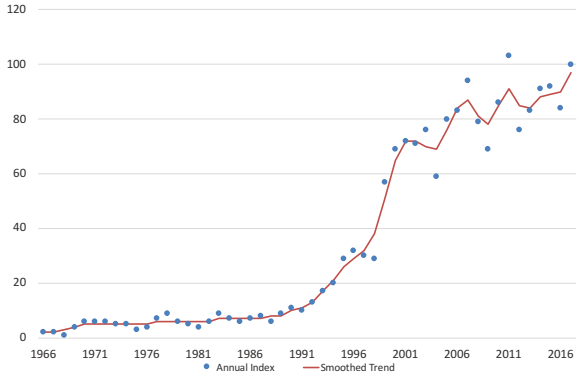
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
bernicla	21	6	27	13						7	28	41
hrota	168	72	43		2					38	34	37
race unknown	13		2							2	1	1

CANADA GOOSE *Branta canadensis* GWYDD CANADA

A locally common and increasing introduced breeding resident (Category C) in most counties.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	3948	3986
% of BirdTrack lists	20%	20%

Wetland Bird Survey: Canada Goose in Wales, 1966 - 2018



The growth in breeding numbers in Wales has slowed this century compared to the last, but with much greater variability in the annual Wetland Bird Survey index.

Breeding records, presumed under-recorded: GWENT: bred at 10+ sites; E.GLAMORGAN: 14 nests at 10 sites; GOWER: 14 nests at eight sites; PEMBROKE: bred in at least nine 1-km squares; BRECON: three pairs at two sites, plus 51 goslings at Llangorse from an unknown number of pairs; MEIRIONNYDD: 50+ pairs at 17 sites; CAERNARFON: min. 10 pairs at seven sites, including several >300m in Snowdonia; 30 juveniles at Llyn Conwy – at 454m asl – on 30 July but breeding location not known; ANGLESEY: bred in 'large numbers' at RSPB Valley Wetlands; 31 pairs bred at RSPB Cors Ddyga; one pair bred at NWWT Cemlyn; DENBIGH: 20 breeding records from seven sites; FLINT: 28 breeding records from five sites.

A huge aggregation of Canada Geese in the Dee estuary in autumn 2018, included a count of 7000 at Connah's Quay NR, Flintshire, in Sept. This is by far the biggest ever count in Wales, beating 3319 on the Dyfi estuary in 2008.

The number of sites holding at least 300 birds (tabulated below) is 33% higher than the 2005-17 mean, indicating that both flock sizes and the number of occupied waterbodies is increasing.

>300 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT												
Llandegfedd Res.	231	132	47	9	14	60	8	106	87	500	362	105
Newport Wetlands	375	452	602	213	273	129	149	127	112	246	165	342
The Warrage		5	110	18	24		11	126	73	300	250	
E.GLAMORGAN												
Cosmeston Lakes CP	73	32	14	20	5	12	20	20	31	275	317	66
GOWER												
Neath Abbey	275	49	47			4		300		210	100	75
CARMARTHEN												
Dryslwyn/Cilsan		327	59							450	996	939
PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION												
Teifi estuary	480	9	12						1300	228	460	385
CEREDIGION												
Dyfi estuary	1121	705					1050	692	1284	1294	1316	1025
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake	269	200	65			437	350	200	300	208	132	314
MEIRIONNYDD												
Glaslyn/Dwyryd est.	201	321	71						671	630	285	945
Glaslyn Marshes	136	46	69	56				160			360	28
Mawddach est.		92	187				110			308	325	
ANGLESEY												
Llyn Llywenan	100	60	30	50					300	4	1	1
FLINT												
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	3200	120	50	7	11	200	400	200	400	3500		3000
Connah's Quay NR	2800		300			1000		2000	7000			
White Sands	140	84	500	16	49	4	300	700	600	150		17

Counts of 300+ elsewhere: GWENT: 300 at St Brides in Jan.; PEMBROKE: 500 on the Nevern estuary on 5 Sept.; 280 at Llys y fran Res. on 15 Sept.; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: 1000 on the Teifi estuary on 10 Sept.; MONTGOMERY: 500+ at Dolydd Hafren on 17 Jan. and 550 here on 14 Nov.; 400 at Llyn Coed-y-Dinas on 10 Oct.; MEIRIONNYDD: 491 at Penrhyndeudraeth saltings on 24 Sept.; 580 at Ynys saltings, Dyfi estuary, on 25 Oct. and 575 here on 24 Dec.; CAERNARFON: 355 at Caerhun on 7 Aug.; FLINT: 400+ at Rhuddlan on 7 Feb.; 547 on the Clwyd est. on 1 Sept.

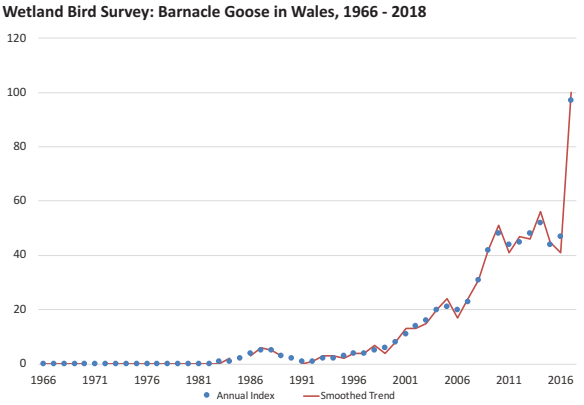
2017 errata

MONTGOMERY: 1000+ at Llyn Coed y Dinas on 9 and 23 Nov. and on 6 Dec.; c.300 at Dolydd Hafren in Feb. and Nov.; CAERNARFON: the fourth breeding attempt related to the Gwylan islands, part of the Bardsey Bird & Field Observatory recording area, not on Bardsey itself where the species has never bred.

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis* GWYDD WYRAN

A regular winter visitor in recent years to the Dyfi estuary with smaller numbers at other sites, most probably from the naturalised population breeding in Cumbria (Category C). Wales Green listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	225	191
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%



Breeding: CEREDIGION: no breeding count from Cardigan Island but 88 adults here on 5 June; BRECON: five broods at Crannog, Llangorse.

Non-breeding: a significant jump in the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales, more than doubling in just a single year following eight years of stability.

Two naturalised populations based on the Dyfi (from the Derwent Water breeding population) and Teifi estuaries, and birds seen in southeast Wales may be from a naturalised population in the Severn Valley.

Approximate monthly totals for each county:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT			7						1	1	2	2
E.GLAMORGAN		3	1			21**						
GOWER	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1
PEMBROKE					2	2						
CEREDIGION/PEMBROKE												
Teifi estuary	65	115						83	114		110	130
CEREDIGION												
Dyfi estuary*	515	108	92	2	2	2	2	53	217	470	480	480
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake			18	22			46	48				
MONTGOMERY	6											
MEIRIONNYDD	2	2						1				64*
CAERNARFON					2	3		2		1		
ANGLESEY			1	1			4			9	1	1
DENBIGH			1									
FLINT	2	2	2			2		2		2	10	2

*part of flock also recorded in CEREDIGION, MEIRIONNYDD and MONTGOMERY.

** includes county record flock of 19 at Lavernock Pt on 29 June.

2017 MONTGOMERY: two at Cors Dyfi on 1 Sept.; six at Llyn Coed y Dinas from 9 Nov. to 29 Dec. were also at Dolydd Hafren on 29-30 Nov. and 31 Dec.

SNOW GOOSE *Anser caerulescens* GŴYDD YR EIRA

No evidence that this species has occurred as a wild bird, originating from North America, and all records relate to escapes or a self-sustaining population elsewhere in Britain (Category C).

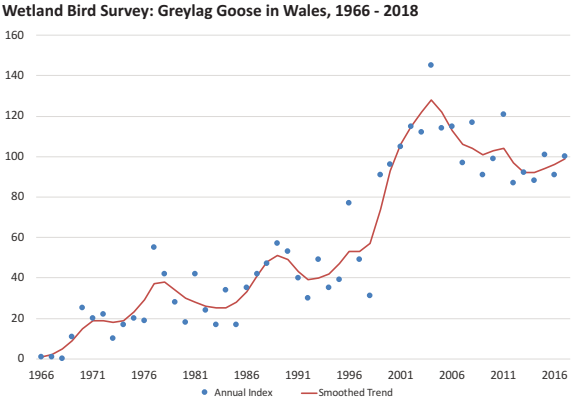
E.GLAMORGAN: one at Grangetown, Cardiff, on 4 May; BRECON: one at Llangorse Lake from 23 June to 30 Sept., associating with Barnacle and Canada Geese, and accepting bread and grain; MONTGOMERY: one with Canada Goose at Caersws on 21 March, and presumed same at Montgomery on 16 April and 2 Sept., and at Llyn Coed-y-Dinas in early June; MEIRIONNYDD: one at Ynys Saltings, Dyfi Junction, on 3-5 Jan. and again in late July; ANGLESEY: white phase bird with Greylag Geese between Cemaes Bay and Burwen on 9-17 Jan.; four at Cemlyn on 14 May. Probable Barnacle x Snow Goose hybrid at Llyn Traffwll on 4 Nov.; FLINT: one at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 23 April.

GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser* GWYDD WYLLT

All records relate to naturalised birds (Category C), mainly in the north, but increasing farther south.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	1690	1682
% of BirdTrack lists	8%	8%

Breeding: GWENT: six pairs bred at two sites; E.GLAMORGAN: single pairs bred at two sites; GOWER: 1-2 broods on the R.Neath; CARMARTHEN: 10 pairs bred at two sites; PEMBROKE: breeding evidence in three 1-km squares; MEIRIONNYDD: possibly bred at two sites; CAERNARFON: five pairs at Morfa Madryn, of which three hatched chicks; ANGLESEY: 41 pairs nested at RSPB Cors Ddyga; DENBIGH: four pairs bred; FLINT: bred at three sites.



Numbers counted by the Wetland Bird Survey have stabilised this century, following several years of significant growth in the late 1990s. However, the number of sites with over 100 birds (below) was the highest ever, 40% above the 2005-17 mean.

Counts of 100+ not included in the table: GOWER: 350 over Oldwalls on 21 Aug.; 280 over Scurlage on 30 Aug.; 150 at Staffal Haegr on 14 Sept.; 180 past Salthouse Point on 28 Sept.; 220 on the Upper Loughor estuary on 10 Oct.; 200+ at Llanrhidian Marsh on 2 Nov.; PEMBROKE: 105 in the eastern Cleddau estuary in Oct.; 140 at Sprinkle Pill on 18 Oct.; 155 on Pembroke Mill Pond on 28 Dec.; MONTGOMERY: 200+ at Dolydd Hafren on 24 Jan.; MEIRIONNYDD: 100 at Pont Croesor on 17 Aug.; ANGLESEY: 1000+ at Llyn Traffwll in June and July; DENBIGH: 100 at Gresford Flash on 1 Jan.; 300 at Nant Lewis Alyn, Denbigh, on 9 Jan.; 412 at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari, on 15 Jan., with counts of 100-300 until mid March and 374 here on 15 Oct.; 175 at Llyn Brenig on 17 July.

2017 MONTGOMERY: c.100 at Dolydd Hafren on 4 Jan. and 26 Oct.

>100 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
E.GLAMORGAN												
Roath Park Lake	15	11	16	15	15	47	120	17	18	23	20	20
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	72	72	45	56	39	46	83	35	405	350	50	72
Dryslwyn/Cilsan		208	16							186	314	385
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	99	22	25	6	32	11	27	142	351	90	28	190
CEREDIGION												
Cors Caron NNR										129	162	128
ANGLESEY												
RSPB Valley Wetlands	13	16	104	79	99	300	1118	533	333	684	280	45
Beddmanarch-Cymyran		200										66
RSPB Cors Ddyga	2	74	50	72	68	45	41	56	131	300	100	605
Llyn Hafodol	120	32	8									
Llyn Cefni	1	37								28	55	106
FLINT												
Clwyd estuary	412	5			2		170	520	9	500	590	
Dee estuary (Wales)								125+		105	700	129
Fagl Lane GP	360	197	201	13	23	19						

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchus* GWYDD DROED-BINC

Regular on the Dee estuary (Flintshire), in growing numbers since 2010. Elsewhere, a scarce and irregular winter visitor, chiefly to North Wales. Spring and summer records relate to feral birds, as may some winter and autumn records. Wales Green listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	**192**	**225**
% of BirdTrack lists	**<1%**	**<1%**

The highest count on the Dee estuary, FLINT, during the first winter period was 10,000 at White Sands on 4 April and RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 7th, which is yet another new record. The average annual peak count during 2005-10 was just 282 birds and during 2011-17 was 4221 birds. In the second winter period, the peak count was 3000+ at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 22 Nov.

There was a marked influx to northern and western counties (though missing Anglesey completely) on 6-7 Jan. following strong northerly winds, evident in the table below that shows county totals in each month away from the Dee:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*		*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
E.GLAMORGAN						1		1		
CARMARTHEN	11	11						2		
CEREDIGION	226			2*			4		2	
MONTGOMERY	179	30								
MEIRIONNYDD	250							2		
CAERNARFON	56						10	2	1	4
ANGLESEY	1	1		1					32	3
DENBIGH	4572	72	1	1				3	10	
FLINT	160						2	2	2	2

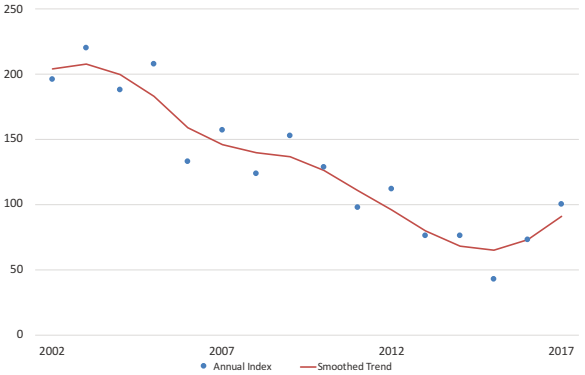
*also seen at Teifi Marshes, Pembrokeshire.

GOWER: one at Margam Park on 11 April was of unknown origin; BRECON: one with Canada Geese at Llangasty on 17 Oct. was presumed to be of feral origin.

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser albifrons* GWYDD DALCEN-WEN

Scarce winter visitor; Ceredigion supports the only regular flock of flavirostris. Rare elsewhere, though hard weather can result in increases in albifrons from the east. Wales Red listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	47	111
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%



***A.a.flavirostris* (Greenland White-fronted Goose / Gŵydd Dalcen-wen yr Ynys Las)**

There is a long-term decline in this race, with a flyway population of just 22,000 birds. Low breeding productivity is a fundamental problem, but Welsh Government's decision to end hunting in 2019 (although still not backed by legislation at the time of writing) will improve the birds' condition prior to their return migration. Wales' sole regular wintering population (on the Dyfi est.) remains desperately small, less than half its 2005-17 average. There were fewer birds at other sites than in 2017.

All records: GWENT: two adults and four 1CYs near West Usk Lighthouse, St. Brides, and then on Newport Wetlands Reserve saltmarsh on 10 Nov.; CARMARTHEN: 1CY at Dryslwyn on 14 Nov.; CEREDIGION: up to 25 from start of year to 11 April, with one remaining until 16th; first birds returned on 27 Oct., peaking at 13 from 19 Nov. to year end, with no 1CYs in the flock; CAERNARFON: two at Foryd on 27 Oct.; ANGLESEY: one over Mynydd Bodafon on 1 Jan.; two at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 21 Nov., and nine here on 26 Dec., of which eight remained to the year end; FLINT: nine wintered at Talacre from 6 Jan. to 20 March.

***A.a.albifrons* (European White-fronted Goose / Gŵydd Dalcen-wen Ewrop)**

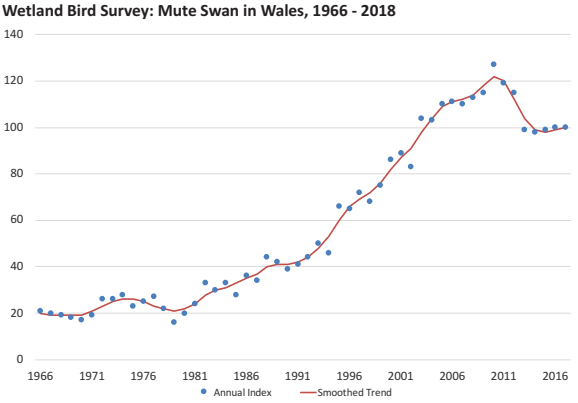
All records: GWENT: two adults and one 1CY on Wentlooge Level on 8-10 Jan.; E.GLAMORGAN: two at Kenfig NNR from 8 Jan. to 18 March also visited Ogmore estuary and Watermill flood on 16-22 Jan.; PEMBROKE: seven at Marloes Mere on 26 Oct. and then at Dale airfield on 29 Oct., included one with a neck collar tagged in Co.Wexford, Ireland, in March 2003; 14 at Trevine Common from 26 Oct. to 16 Nov.; CEREDIGION: one at Ynys Tachwedd on 14-25 Jan.; BRECON: 17 at Llangorse on 11-26 Jan.; DENBIGH: two at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari, from 15 Jan. to 9 April.

Records not sub-specifically reported: GOWER: one at Llanrhidian on 4 Feb.; CARMARTHEN: eight flew up the Tywi Valley on 25 Nov.; one at Penclacwydd on 26 Nov.; PEMBROKE: one passed Strumble Head on 23 Sept.

MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor* ALARCH DOF

Resident breeding species, now increasing in most counties. Wales Green listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	3967	3962
% of BirdTrack lists	21%	20%



Breeding counts (not full surveys except Gower): GWENT: 18 pairs bred successfully, producing 64 young; E.GLAMORGAN: 13 pairs bred at 11 sites, fewest since 2010; GOWER: nine of 12 pairs fledged 50-52 young; CARMARTHEN: four pairs bred at three sites; PEMBROKE: breeding evidence in 10 1-km squares; CEREDIGION: three nests at two sites; BRECON: 14 pairs nested at eight sites; MEIRIONNYDD: four broods at two sites; CAERNARFON: single pairs at five sites, though only three nests; ANGLESEY: 10 pairs bred at three sites; DENBIGH: bred at six sites; FLINT: bred at nine sites.

Following an almost uninterrupted increase since the early 1980s, the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales dropped back in 2013, but has since remained very stable. By contrast, the frequency of the species' appearance on BirdTrack lists has fallen from its peak of 25% in 2016.

The number of sites holding >40 birds at least once during the year (listed below) remains stable, although the number of sites with >25 birds is the highest on record.

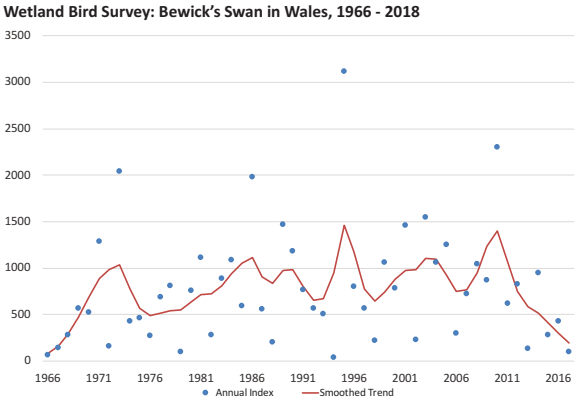
>40 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT												
St Brides	76	45	69	60	15	7	5	9	34	40	63	62
R.Usk (Newbridge to Llantrisant)	46		5								39	36
E.GLAMORGAN												
Roath Park Lake	73	62	57	55	71	80	120	79	79	72	56	53
Cardiff Bay	20	25	35	20	75	186	208	220	8	6	3	4
Cosmeston Lakes CP	34	40+	31+	39	25+	24	25+	30+	36	35	34	41+
CARMARTHEN												
Dryslwyn/Cilsan	27	40	15							17	27	25
Sandy Water Park	10	15	15	18	56	68	77	62	26	16	11	11
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake	50	31	32	40	72	136	163	170	170	125	80	47
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	2	1	2	5	81	114	116	92	137	112	26	23
ANGLESEY												
Llyn Cefni	4	2	2	4	7	35	49	57	44	54	9	11
FLINT												
Shotwick		1									47	70
White Sands	21	44	2	20	25	1						5
Clwyd estuary	18	2	14	4	48						3	

Counts of 40+ elsewhere: E.GLAMORGAN: on R. Taff, Cardiff, 63 between Taff embankment and Coopers Field on 18 Jan. and 53 between Blackweir and Butetown on 18 March; ANGLESEY: 59 at Llyn Alaw on 29 Aug.; DENBIGH: 49 at Sutton Green, Wrexham, on 31 Dec.

BEWICK'S SWAN *Cygnus columbianus* ALARCH BEWICK

Irregular winter visitor in small numbers. Red WeBS alert: -63% long-term and -72% short-term. Wales Red-listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	59	19
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%



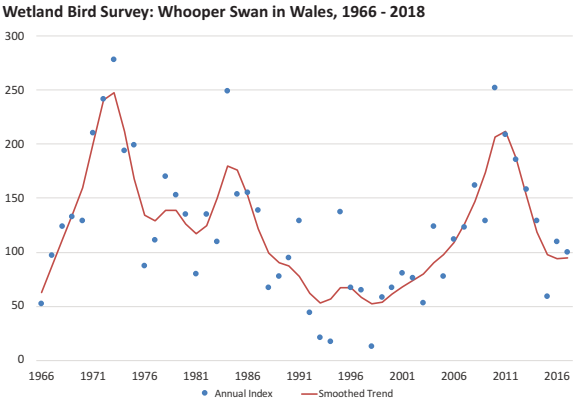
The decline evident since 2010 has accelerated, with few birds even at traditional locations: in Gwent, the flock in the Usk Valley around Llangybi and Llanllowell did not appear in winter 2017/18 and contained only three birds in the second winter period, while no more than seven birds were in the Dee estuary, Flintshire, just 14% of the 10-year average.

All records: GWENT: four at Llandgefedd Res. on 10 Jan.; 1-2 in the Usk Valley in Nov./Dec., increasing to three on 29 Dec.; BRECON: one at Llangasty Point on 20 Nov. is the first county record since 2011; FLINT: up to seven at sites on the Dee estuary between 8 Jan. and 21 Feb.

WHOOPER SWAN *Cygnus cygnus* ALARCH Y GOGLEDD

Regular winter visitor in small numbers to several Welsh counties. Red WeBS alert: -56% short-term (the greatest decline in any UK country) but +21% for long-term. Wales Green listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	201	212
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%



The Wetland Bird Survey trend for Wales has more than halved since 2011, but flocks of >10 birds were seen at more sites in 2018 than any year since 2010, and the flock in the Tywi Valley, Carmarthenshire, in late winter 2017-18 was the largest ever seen in the county.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr		Oct	Nov	Dec
CARMARTHEN								
Tywi Valley	63	69*	69*	20		34	47	51
CEREDIGION								
Cors Caron	6	1				10	10	2
MEIRIONNYDD								
R.Glaslyn	63	54	40	8		32	37	49
ANGLESEY								
RSPB Cors Ddyga	3		7			2	4	18
Llyn Cefni						6	32	
Llyn Hafodol	20	23	15					
Beddmanarch-Cymyran	21	19		7			5	1
FLINT								
Dee estuary	23	36	1			3	13	22

*county record

Elsewhere, county totals in each month:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr		Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT						8		5
E.GLAMORGAN	1					3	1	1
GOWER	2					1-2		
PEMBROKE	4					16	3	13
CEREDIGION			11			35	4	2
RADNOR						8	6	
MONTGOMERY	31			8				
MEIRIONNYDD	6	7					3	9
CAERNARFON	3	15	1			77		14
ANGLESEY	9						5	38
DENBIGH	4	2	2			4	4	4
FLINT	2						1	1
2017 MONTGOMERY	15	12	8				6	

EGYPTIAN GOOSE *Alopochen aegyptiaca* GWYDD YR AIFFT

Introduced (Category C). Despite the increase in numbers and range in England, records in Wales remain scarce.

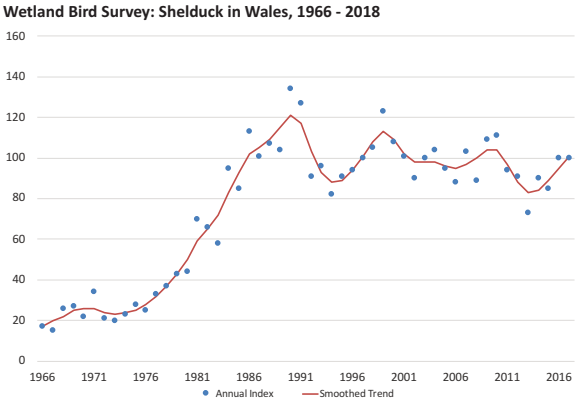
	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	**45**	**19**
% of BirdTrack lists	**<1%**	**<1%**

All records: GWENT: one at Newport Wetlands Reserve Goldcliff from 24 Feb. to 30 March, and three here on 8 April; E.GLAMORGAN: present at Aberdare Park on 3 March and 25 Dec.; MONTGOMERY: one at Llyn Coed-y-Dinas on 30 March; DENBIGH: one at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari, on 5 March and two here on 9 and 16 April; three at Llay on 24 March; two at Acrefair on 25 March; FLINT: one at Connah's Quay NR on 17 June and two here on 23 Sept.

SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna* HWYADEN YR EITHIN

A locally common breeding resident in coastal areas, but rare passage migrant to inland counties. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	3115	2984
% of BirdTrack lists	16%	15%



Breeding: GWENT: six broods at four sites, including a late brood hatched in August at Peterstone Pill, plus pairs at eight other sites; E.GLAMORGAN: three pairs bred at two sites; GOWER: bred at three sites, possibly at one other; CARMARTHEN: 7+ pairs bred at two sites; PEMBROKE: breeding evidence at three sites including Milford Haven waterway/Daugleddau estuary where 11 broods were seen (average 5.5 chicks/pair), an increase in number on 2015-17; CEREDIGION: bred at three sites; MEIRIONNYDD: *c*.30 pairs on five estuaries, but only a single brood seen on the Broadwater and two on the R.Glaslyn at Porthmadog Cob; CAERNARFON: 13 pairs at six sites; ANGLESEY: five pairs bred at three sites; DENBIGH: brood at RSPB Conwy; FLINT: crèche of 41 young on the lower Clwyd estuary on 3 June.

Non-breeding: numbers monitored by the Wetland Bird Survey are far higher than in the 1970s, although have declined around 20% since their 1990 peak. The number of sites holding flocks of 100 birds (below) is 30% higher than the 2005-17 mean.

Counts of 100+ not included in the table: CARMARTHEN: 108 at Machynys on 10 Dec.; PEMBROKE: 130 at New Shipping Pt. on 22 Jan.; MEIRIONNYDD: 100 at Ynys, Dyfi estuary, on 24 Dec.; ANGLESEY: 640 on the Braint est. on 1 Jan.; FLINT: 1000 at Connah's Quay NR in June and 1500 here on 7 July.

Shelduck (Adrian Foster)

>100 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT												
Peterstone Gt Wharf	177	212	137	103	62	20	7	6	86	32		96
Peterstone Pill	233	114	90	80	36	57	99	300	315	340	245	130
Mathern & Black Rock	100	90	52	3	31	25				12		24
Newport Wetlands	594	129	276	218	125	61	99	118	524	756	175	126
Undy	141	339	266	161	94	403	326	21	79	21	162	248
E.GLAMORGAN												
Rhymney estuary	104	p	101	11	35	18		9	5	710	500	45
Cardiff foreshore	16	14	12				15	1		400		80
GOWER												
Whiteford	300	200	37	30	4	2				42	69	235
Weobley	164	116	289	155	11		8			135	250	119
Llanrhidian	197	35	229	191	46	8	13			69	300	64
Wernffrwd/Crofty	95	49	63	23	3	8	14	2		64	100	110
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	203	170	202	125	64	135	63	13	2	148	483	497
Gwendraeth estuary		13	18	65		132				3	41	
Taf estuary	138	91	70	30							45	65
CEREDIGION												
Dyfi estuary	263	270						9	12	136	105	289
MEIRIONNYDD												
Broadwater	119	39	4		134	35	16			30		
CAERNARFON												
Y Foryd	112	148	150	71	32	31	11	32	10	40	30	118
Traeth Lafan	170	400	39	112	32	57	50	76	32	169	478	380
ANGLESEY												
Traeth Melynog	385	221		37	24		5		27	116	656	618
Malltraeth Cob and estuary	125		17	15	12	16				59	200	250
Beddmanarch-Cymyran	62	68	49						6	36	87	145
DENBIGH												
RSPB Conwy	30	87	64	204	117	42	7	26	12		3	4
FLINT												
Clwyd estuary	66	88+	194	74	147	167	113	45+	88	122	118	122
RSPB Point of Ayr	60	67	98	95	12	400	250	220	800	850	400	67
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	30	60	220	400	100	500	300	120	40	35	150	40
Ffynnongroyw Bay West	2	1	35	7		30	50	16	160	310	2	
White Sands	45	65	15	43	38	86	176	65		600		18

MANDARIN DUCK *Aix galericulata* HWYADEN GRIBOG

Introduced (Catgeory C). Scarce, but increasing, breeding resident.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	**184**	**167**
% of BirdTrack lists	**<1%**	**<1%**

In eastern counties, records are now too numerous to merit individual mention in county reports, but the flock sizes indicate how abundant this species must be. While 32 broods is the highest ever reported, it doubtless under-represents a species that breeds along well-

vegetated river banks that are hard to monitor and rarely visited.

Breeding pairs: GWENT: pairs at 13 sites, of which eight had chicks; BRECON: approx. 10 pairs, mainly in the Wye and Elan Valleys; RADNOR: “continued to increase”; MONTGOMERY: 10 nests at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy, double the total in 2017; MEIRIONNYDD: single pairs on the R.Dee at Cynwyd and Corwen, and presumed to have bred around Pont Croesor; DENBIGH: several family parties on the R.Dee at Llangollen; elsewhere around six broods at four sites; FLINT: two broods at Ddol Res., Ysceifiog.

2017 MONTGOMERY: bred at Lake Vyrnwy, and along the Rivers Cain and Tanat.

Records from counties where individual sightings were reported:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT	94 records during the year											
E.GLAMORGAN	five birds at four sites during the year											
GOWER	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1	5	1	3
CARMARTHEN			2	1	4							
PEMBROKE				1	1	1				1		
CEREDIGION	1	1	1	1	1	1						
BRECON	1	10	8	9	1				71+	2	43	7
MEIRIONNYDD									4			6
CAERNARFON				1								
FLINT		2	1	5		1		2				

Notable counts: GWENT: 40 at Llandogo, R.Wye, on 12 Jan.; RADNOR: highest count was 55 in the Elan Valley in Nov.

GARGANEY *Spatula querquedula* HWYADEN ADDFAIN

Recorded in small numbers on passage and occasionally breeds (five attempts, only one since 1991). RBBP: four paired birds in 2017. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	**120**	**53**
% of BirdTrack lists	**<1%**	**<1%**

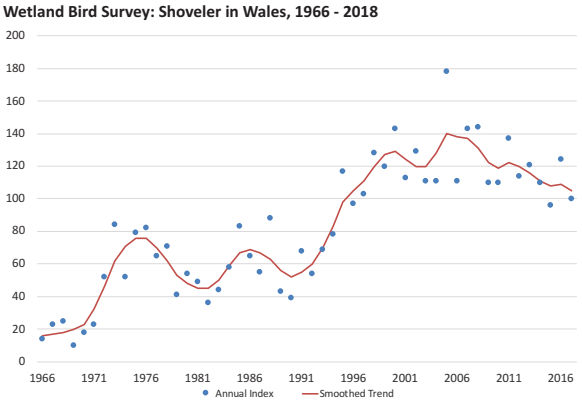
There were 23 records involving 34 birds (the total in the table below is higher as some birds occurred in more than one month). This is the lowest total since 2012, since when the average number of birds each year has been 52. Two males were at RSPB Cors Ddyga, ANGLESEY, through June and a female was seen here on 5th, but there was no additional evidence of breeding.

	Mar	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*
GWENT		1	2	4				
E.GLAMORGAN		2	2	2				
CARMARTHEN			5					1
PEMBROKE	1	3	1					
CEREDIGION	1		1					
RADNOR		2						
ANGLESEY		2	1	3				
FLINT		2						

SHOVELER *Spatula clypeata* HWYADEN LYDANBIG

Locally common winter visitor and passage migrant. RBBP: nine confirmed pairs (and 40 probable/ possible) in 2017. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	1271	1172
% of BirdTrack lists	6%	6%



The number of breeding pairs was typical of recent years, higher than the previous decade and in line with the UK trend: GWENT: one brood at Newport Wetlands Reserve Goldcliff; CARMARTHEN: pair bred at Penclacwydd; PEMBROKE: two broods on Skomer and one on Skokholm but no chicks fledged; CAERNARFON: a pair possibly bred in the Morfa Abererch/Afonwen area; ANGLESEY: bred at RSPB Valley Wetlands (10 males present) and at RSPB Cors Ddyga (27 males present).

Non-breeding: the recent decline in the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales has continued, with numbers back to their 1996 level.

Shoveler (Steve Ransome)

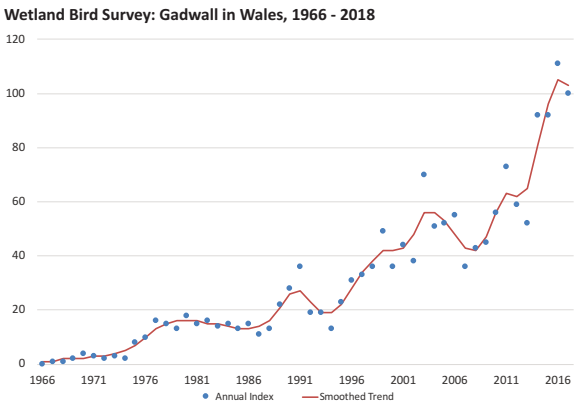
The number of sites with >50 at least once was up on last year, and around 22% higher than the 2015-17 mean:

>50 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT												
Peterstone Pill	18		4	2				50	20	104	80	116
Newport Wetlands	90	174	72	67	16	12	2	53	70	35	26	138
E.GLAMORGAN												
Rhymney estuary	22		31						3	6	80	10
GOWER												
Wernffrwd			10							180		5
Penclawdd		88								69	50	45
Salthouse Pt/Pill	267	112	17						26	69	218	138
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	223	51	34	20	8	11	5	20	37	41	14	9
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake	59	47	12	4	2					10	12	50
ANGLESEY												
RSPB Valley Wetlands	86	137	231	248	10	7	11	3	31	34	50	158
Llyn Cefni	11	22	2					4	26	68	5	2
RSPB Cors Ddyga	20	62	23	43	28	9			11		26	24
FLINT												
Shotton Paper Mill	48	22	29	8		6			43	48		62

GADWALL *Mareca strepera* HWYADEN LWYD

Regular breeding bird in small numbers. A regular winter visitor to most counties. Wales Green listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	**1331**	**1157**
% of BirdTrack lists	**6%**	**6%**



Breeding: a further increase in numbers recorded in spring, though these include spring counts of males on nature reserves, not all of which will go on to breed. GWENT: three pairs bred at Llanwern; E.GLAMORGAN/GOWER: three pairs bred at Kenfig NNR; GOWER: two pairs at Staffal Haegr; CARMARTHEN: 18 pairs at Penclacwydd; two pairs at Penrhyngwyn Pond; pair at Ashpits Pond; BRECON: one pair at Llangorse Lake; ANGLESEY: bred at Trearddur Bay and RSPB Valley Wetlands, and possibly near Cemlyn and at Llyn Hafodol; 20 males at RSPB Cors Ddyga; DENBIGH: three broods at RSPB Conwy; FLINT: one brood at Shotton Paper Mill.

Non-breeding: as elsewhere in the UK, wintering Gadwalls in Wales have increased markedly since the late 1980s, but few sites hold large numbers, measured by the Wetland Bird Survey.

The number of sites holding more than 20 birds was the highest on record, and 63% above the 2005-17 average.

>20 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT												
Llanwern steelworks	30	32	14	6	2	1	5	45	16	11	13	14
Newport Wetlands	52	56	27	27	25	14	3	25	45	47	51	31
E.GLAMORGAN												
Kenfig Pool	59	24	10	2	2	2			10	56	67	76
Kenfig rivermouth	2	2	17	12	15		22	5				
GOWER												
Staffal Haegr	26	15	14		24			9			27	17
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	67	81	52	67	47	52	25	72	135	104	80	79
Penrhyngwyn Pond							7	146	38	91		88
Ashpits Pond	10	15					7		37		7	
Ffos-las	10			4						25	23	
PEMBROKE												
Bosherton Lakes	20	7									4	15
Marloes Mere	11	20	10							2	2	
South Hook Pools	23	3	4								15	8
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake	57	49	28	13	2			4	10	6	32	70
ANGLESEY												
RSPB Valley Wetlands	42	70	30	47	45	67	115	87	77	73	47	21
Llyn Cefni	10	4	2	2	3	3	8	49	82	51	40	32
Llyn Maelog		6	2	3	4	32	5	15	7	3		
Llyn Bodgylched	28	6							8	17	23	16
RSPB Cors Ddyga		3	26	19	11	1					6	17
DENBIGH												
RSPB Conwy	30	28	15	23	9	13		36	9	13	42	39
FLINT												
Shotton Mill	14	106	14	14		60	7		50	97		121
Shotton Steelworks			9	4	3		1	37	11	20	65	38

Counts of 20+ elsewhere: DENBIGH: 20 at Afon Wen on 29 Dec.; FLINT: 37 at White Sands on 15 April.

WIGEON *Mareca penelope* CHWIWELL

Common passage migrant and locally abundant winter visitor, chiefly to coastal counties. Small numbers breed, usually in northwest Wales (RBBP: one possible pair in 2017). Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	**2097**	**2021**
% of BirdTrack lists	**10%**	**10%**

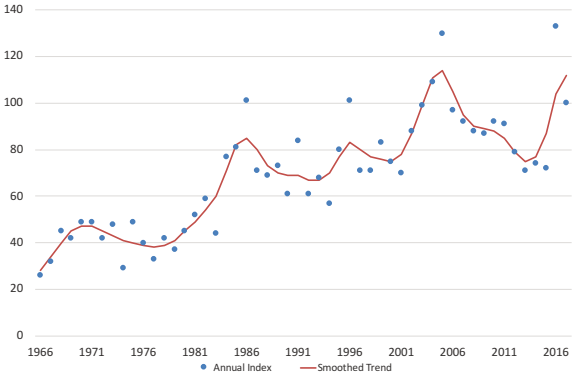
Non-breeding: Wigeon numbers wintering in Wales were lower in 2017/18 than in the previous year, but still higher than in the previous 10 winters, measured by the Wetland Bird Survey. The *North-East*

Wales Bird Report notes a continued reduction in numbers in Denbighshire, compensated by an increase in Flintshire.

The number of sites holding 300+ birds at least once during the year (below) was 20% above the 2005-17 average:

Counts of 300+ not included in the table: PEMBROKE: 300 at Lawrenny on 27 Nov.; 300 at Upton on 11 Dec.; 400 at Carew-Cresswell on 19 Dec.; ANGLESEY: 350 on the Braint est. on 1 Jan.

Wetland Bird Survey: Wigeon in Wales, 1966 - 2018

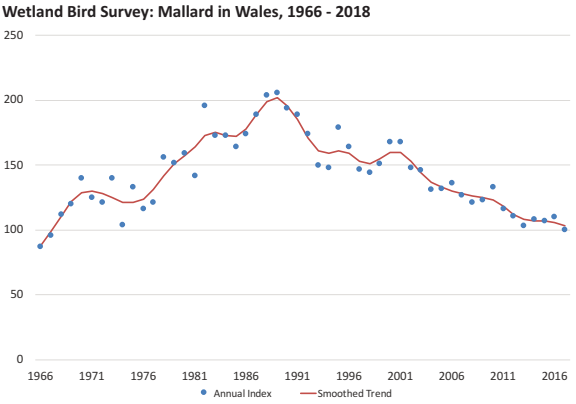


>300 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT												
Nedern Wetland	329	394	205	26								617
Undy coast	16	160	2						227	541	129	171
Newport Wetland	1720	2226	1500	46	4	1	1	1	87	194	1611	2673
Llandegfedd Res.	40	20	15						50	14	50	420
GOWER												
Whiteford	72	139							45	458	220	275
Wernffrwd/Crofty	57									183	500	52
Penclawdd	10	89							15	608	209	87
CEREDIGION												
Dyfi estuary	3080	2968	264	84	1	2			68	1275	1975	2561
Teifi estuary	124	136	160	3					17	100	300	264
PEMBROKE												
Angle Bay	1000	300	79						57	1500	3500	2500
Pembroke est.	61	11							404	1513	2350	305
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake	424	246	278	11					2	31	87	245
MEIRIONNYDD												
Glaslyn/Dwyryd est.	955	596	440						184	493	269	531
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	1300	703	350	10			3	3	300	244	2299	1070
Foryd	1210	630	237			1	1	1	470	2100	1990	1790
Llanengan		170	1								25	800
RSPB Morfa Dinlle	370	80	60	2							140	510
ANGLESEY												
Traeth Melynog	166	86								5	1778	404
Beddmanarch-Cymyran	297	216	114						157	582	661	72
RSPB Valley Wetlands	250	286	237	4			3	3	33	68	422	282
RSPB Cors Ddyga	309	327	373	22	2	1			4		400	220
Malltraeth Cob & estuary	156		266							119	300	75
FLINT												
Clwyd estuary		800	542	50					5	55	200	341
Point of Ayr	500	557	411						1	14	140	172
Connah's Quay NR	2000	450	1300	4				1	120	12	500	
White Sands	26	127	800	300								9
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	2000	300	200						120	3000	2000	5000

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos* HWYADEN WYLLT

Common and widespread breeding resident, abundant passage migrant and winter visitor to all counties. Amber WeBS alert: -43% long-term. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	7102	7266
% of BirdTrack lists	38%	38%



The Breeding Bird Survey index (not shown) has levelled out over the last 12 years, in contrast to the non-breeding population WeBS index for Wales, which has fallen by half since its 1989 peak. Records in bird reports are likely to be unrepresentative of breeding population, but notable were broods on Llyn Arenig Fawr, Meirionnydd, at 407m asl, and on Llyn Idwal (380m asl) and Llyn Conwy (454m asl), Caernarfonshire.

The number of sites with a count of 200+ birds during the year (tabulated) remains below the 2005-17 average; by contrast the number of sites holding >100 birds is the highest during that period.

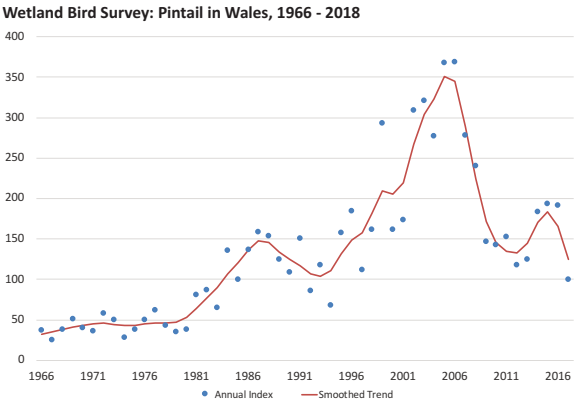
>200 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT												
Llandegfedd Res.	28	18	8	5	11	24	43	6	200	37	44	64
Newport Wetlands	127	106	66	48	45	92	88	266	462	110	168	294
E.GLAMORGAN												
Roath Park Lake	171	109	58	36	15	75		219	154	108	148	120
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	326	240	244	193	192	212	245	560	307	462	356	394
CEREDIGION												
Cors Caron NNR	175	125	143							346	212	314
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake	65	81	260				205		90	211	147	324
MEIRIONNYDD												
Glaslyn/Dwyryd est.	92	26	18						683	98	33	60
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	222	191	102	55	27	189	212	329	315	164	148	363
ANGLESEY												
Llyn Cefni	54	16	8	6	5	52	219	338	420	20	32	33
RSPB Cors Ddyga	77	64	71	40	83	54	52	87	108	174	330	
FLINT												
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh			21		21	200	60	490	135	40	21	300
Connah's Quay NR	2	14	2	2	90	500	200	400	14	125	6	6
White Sands	2	13	8	11	6	7	14	25	19	53	330	

Counts of 200+ elsewhere: PEMBROKE: 300 at Pembroke Mill Ponds on 18 Sept.; FLINT: 420 at Flint on 12 Nov. and 630 here on 9 Dec.

PINTAIL *Anas acuta* HWYADEN LOSTFAIN

Occasional passage migrant and locally abundant winter visitor to some counties, but scarce inland. Red WeBS alert: -52% medium term, the highest of any UK country, but +42% in long-term. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	547	508
% of BirdTrack lists	3%	2%



Breeding season: MEIRONNYDD: six at Porthmadog Cob on 6 June, but no indication of nesting.

Non-breeding: another poor year for Pintails recorded by the Wetland Bird Survey in Wales, the index heading back to early 1990s levels, around 60% lower than just 12 years ago. It is also the first year for many that only one site (the Dee estuary) held more than 1000 birds. Numbers on the Burry Inlet SPA are just 40% of their levels earlier this century (mean 1767 in

The number of sites holding 80+ birds at least once during the year was on a par with recent years:

>80 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*		*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT											
Peterstone Pill	30	97	12				1	40	185	120	170
Peterstone Gt Wharf	15	23	225	33				4	44		8
E.GLAMORGAN											
Cardiff foreshore	80	113	26								183
Rhymney estuary	72	7	25						22	300	24
GOWER											
Whiteford	18	62							354		50
Weobley									236		
Llanrhidian		350									
Wernffrwd/Salthouse		330							396	500	
Penclawdd	97	108	200					3	91	150	820
CARMARTHEN											
Penclacwydd	347	222	59	9			4	72	193		1
Gwendraeth estuary	5							14	27		150
CEREDIGION											
Dyfi estuary	292	238							209	153	219
MEIRIONNYDD											
Glaslyn/Dwyryd est.	210	61	11						182		70
CAERNARFON											
Foryd	150	210	22	2				80	140	60	160
Traeth Lafan	106	166	1					92	2	83	125
ANGLESEY											
Traeth Melynog	315	96									192
Malltraeth Cob & estuary	67		95	2						24	260
Beddmanarch-Cymyran	75	115	27					7			17
FLINT											
Dee estuary (Wales)	145	83	2000	300	40		5	110	5000	5000	800

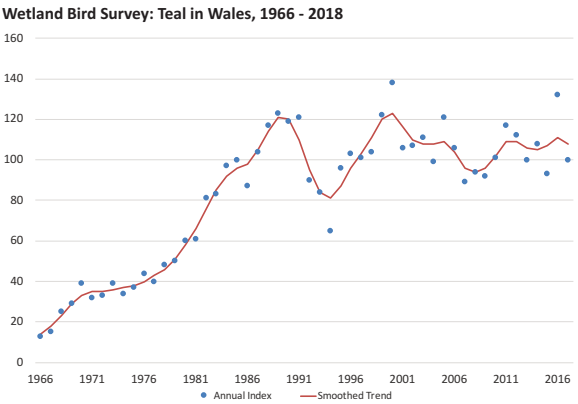
2013/14-17/18, *cf.* 4491 in 2002/03-06/07), resulting in a medium term WeBS red alert for the site. The Dee estuary population - mostly found on the English side - has recovered following a more recent dip, but a red WeBS alert has been issued here for the long term.

Counts of 80+ elsewhere: CARMARTHEN: 236 on the Lliedi estuary on 9 Feb.; ANGLESEY: 115 on the Inland Sea on 7 Feb.

TEAL *Anas crecca* CORHWYADEN

Small numbers breed in the uplands, otherwise a widespread and abundant winter visitor and passage migrant. Wales Amber listed.

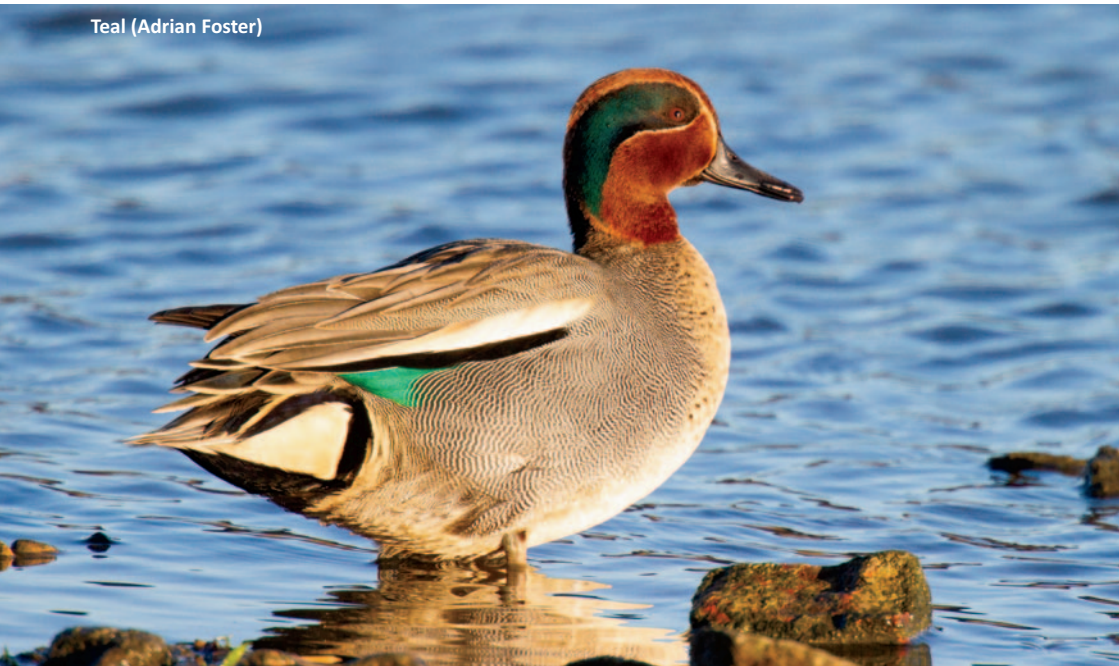
	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	2742	2889
% of BirdTrack lists	13%	14%



Breeding season: typical number of records: CEREDIGION: bred at RSPB Ynys-hir, Cors Fochno and Camddwr Pool; MEIRIONNYDD: bred at Pont Croesor, and possibly at five other sites; CAERNARFON: broods at Foel Boeth and Llyn Conwy; ANGLESEY: three males at RSPB Cors Ddyga.

Non-breeding: Teal numbers recorded by the Wetland Bird Survey have been fairly stable since the late 1980s, but an amber WeBS alert has been issued for the Dee estuary (-25%) over the long-term.

Counts of 300+ not included in the table overleaf: PEMBROKE: 400 at New Shipping Pt. on 22 Jan.; 400 at Castlemartin Corse on 13 Nov.; 783 in east Cleddau est. in Dec.; ANGLESEY: 300 at Llyn Coron on 10 Jan.


Teal (Adrian Foster)

The number of sites recording counts >300 Teal at least once during the year was 23% above the 2005-17 average:

>300 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT												
Newport Wetlands	944	498	291	99	2	9	43	174	204	202	276	692
Llandegfedd Res.	9	20	15	1			1	4	28		50	519
GOWER												
Penclawdd	36	5	2				6		200	286	1	454
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	258	277	105	31	4	13	35	53	130	272	190	285
Dryslwyn/Cilsan		61	40						7	13	426	39
PEMBROKE												
Hook	505	273	399								220	446
CEREDIGION												
Dyfi estuary	603	597							680	970	812	833
Cors Caron	346	393	367							518	554	625
MEIRIONNYDD												
Glaslyn/Dwyryd est.	445	368	80						5	170	172	248
CAERNARFON												
Foryd	200	91	85	7				1	90	80	82	330
ANGLESEY												
RSPB Valley Wetlands	166	245	186	86	2		8	46	45	263	524	377
Beddmanarch-Cymyran	55	13	12						226	410	62	22
RSPB Cors Ddyga	259	260	230	146	2	1	62		90	1	403	156
FLINT												
Dee estuary	800	400	300	130		3	4	160	270	6000	4000	4000
Clwyd estuary		450	210					28	50		185	347

RED-CRESTED POCHARD *Netta rufina* HWYADEN GRIBGOCH

Naturalised breeding species in England (Category C), with over 300 in Cotswold Water Park, Gloucestershire, but scarce in Wales with few records in recent years (five during 2011-17).

BRECON: male present from Aug. 2017 remained at Llangorse Lake until 28 Jan.

POCHARD *Aythya ferina* HWYADEN BENGOCH

A declining winter visitor, chiefly to southern coastal counties, and passage migrant. Red WeBS alert: -68% short term, -76% medium and -89% long term, the highest of any UK country. Breeds in small numbers – RBBP: eight confirmed pairs, 36 probable/possible pairs in 2017. Wales Red-listed.

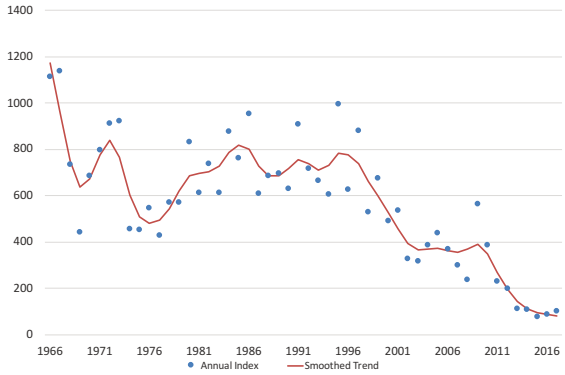
	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	**622**	**711**
% of BirdTrack lists	**3%**	**4%**

Breeding: six confirmed pairs is on a par with recent years. GWENT: pair bred at Newport Wetlands Reserve Uskmouth, and two probable pairs at Llanwern; CARMARTHEN: two pairs bred at Penclacwydd; ANGLESEY: two broods at Llyn Traffwll and one on a pool next to the Inland Sea; 20 birds present at RSPB Valley Wetlands – and one on an airfield pool - on 22 May; possibly bred at RSPB Cors Ddyga (two males present).

Non-breeding: Pochard numbers have fallen by almost 80% since the 1990s. In 2018, none was recorded in Ceredigion, only one each in Pembrokeshire and Caernarfonshire, three each in Montgomeryshire and Flinthshire, and five in Meirionnydd.

11 sites held >20 birds at least once during the year, compared to 21 sites in 2010.

Wetland Bird Survey: Pochard in Wales, 1966 - 2018



>20 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT												
Ynysfro Res.	74	85	42						2	6	11	37
E.GLAMORGAN												
Llanishen/Lisvane Res.	50	27	4			2	4	8	4	9	13	36
Cosmeston Lakes CP	20	36	60	1						3	8	25
Kenfig Pool	49	72	45	6						24	39	45
GOWER												
Eglwys Nunydd Res.	52	37	20			5	2	7	4	39	53	142
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	17	20	20	25	19	9	1	1		3	4	3
Sandy Water Park	20	12	25	10	1	1	7	9	7	1	11	12
ANGLESEY												
RSPB Valley Wetlands	58	63	56	22	47	15	25	22	6	6	1	34
Llyn Alaw	7	5									55	
Llyn Maelog		4	32	13				12	1	1	5	25

Counts of 20+ elsewhere: E.GLAMORGAN: 52 at Kenfig rivermouth on 1 Jan.

RING-NECKED DUCK *Aythya collaris* HWYADEN DORCHOG

Rare visitor from North America. WBRC: 42 previous records.

CARMARTHEN: female at Penclacwydd from 12 Dec. 2017 to 6 April; BRECON: male at Llangorse Lake from 24 Jan. to 6 Feb.; MEIRIONNYDD: male at Llyn Caer Euni from 14 Oct. to at least 11 Nov.; DENBIGH: male at RSPB Conwy on 22 April.

Hybrid: a male Ring-necked x Tufted Duck was in Cardiff Bay, E.GLAMORGAN, on 31 Jan. and from 19 Feb. to 22 March, visiting Cosmeston Lakes CP on 2-15 Feb.

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula* HWYADEN GOPOG

Resident breeding species in small numbers in several Welsh counties and a locally common winter visitor. Wales Green listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	2273	2211
% of BirdTrack lists	11%	11%

Breeding: GWENT: eight broods at four sites, with pairs at six others; E.GLAMORGAN: five pairs bred at three sites; GOWER: 11 pairs at five sites; CARMARTHEN: 10 pairs bred at three sites; CEREDIGION: single broods at two sites; MEIRIONNYDD: probably bred at two sites; ANGLESEY: bred at RSPB Valley Wetlands (53 present), probably at Rhoscolyn and possibly at RSPB Cors Ddyga (11 males present); DENBIGH: four broods at three sites; FLINT: bred at two sites.

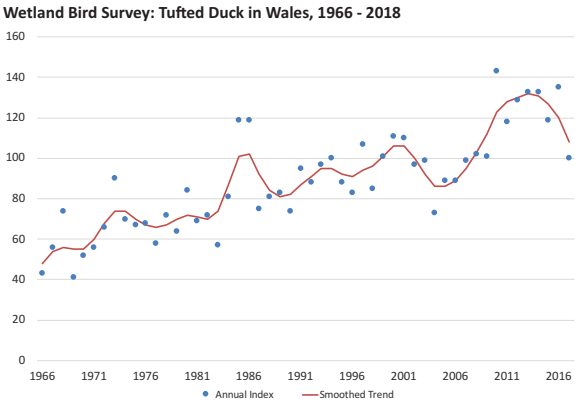
Non-breeding: the lowest numbers for a decade stem the long-term increase in Wales, which may be a foretaste of declines recorded in Northern Ireland.

The number of sites holding 50+ birds at least once during the year was 30% above the 2005-17 average:

>50 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT												
Bryn Bach Park	50	62	69	15	10	8					21	36
Llandegfedd Res.	24	4	2	1				8	42	6	60	33
Ynysyfro Res.	82	73	46	35	12	2	58		40	50	78	90
E.GLAMORGAN												
Kenfig Pool	69	64	46	63	2		1	2	22	26	40	40
Llanishen/Lisvane Res.	33	32	34	34	5	37	140	164	49	14	22	59
Roath Park Lake	161	106	76	10	4	2		2	25	54	60	94
Bute East Dock	66		61	14						1	25	74
Cardiff Bay	267	155	234	80	14	7	6	27	10	102	43	100
Cosmeston Lakes CP	255	262	145	33	6	12	32	17	16	22	68	160
GOWER												
Eglwys Nunydd Res.	47	90	95	42	2	74	92	134	30	80	94	117
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	109	89	96	63	26	40	11	15	42	67	56	104
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake	275	77	185	35					14	111	405	451
Talybont Reservoir	16	45	27		4	4	11	23	16	119	30	
ANGLESEY												
Llyn Llywenan	150	300	50	50					10		40	50
Llyn Cefni	200	142	97	91	17	30	15	1	34	192	187	195
RSPB Valley Wetlands	123	152	176	191	96	92	71	65	45	87	20	44
Llyn Alaw	14	68	21					400			150	
Llyn Coron	90	9	52	11	2	2			3	4	6	4
Llyn Maelog	36	69	44	30				4	15	35	60	86
FLINT												
Shotton Paper Mill	33	80	50	61		55	68		38	153		209
Shotwick Rifle Range		8	9	19	8	8	2	11		15		57

Counts of 50+ elsewhere: CAERNARFON: 58 at Foryd on 20 Jan.; DENBIGH: 77 at Llyn Brenig on 18 Oct. and 82 at nearby Llyn Brân on 30 Oct., thought to be the same flock.

Ringing: BRECON: a male with an inscribed blue nasal saddle at Llangorse Lake on 10 Oct. had been ringed as a 1CY at Lac de Grand Lieu, Loire-Atlantique, France, on 11 Nov. 2014. It was also seen at À Coruna, Spain, on 24 Feb. 2016.



SCAUP *Aythya marila* HWYADEN BENDDU

Scarce and local winter visitor, also recorded on passage. Red WeBS alert: -54% long term. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	**410**	**294**
% of BirdTrack lists	**1%**	**<1%**

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey has recorded more Scaup in the last couple of winters, following two decades of decline in Wales. Numbers in Wales peaked at 46 birds during cold weather in March (allowing for double-counting of birds off Caernarfonshire /Denbighshire), and there was an aggregation on Anglesey's Inland Sea in December. It was, however, another poor year in the Burry Inlet, Gower/Carmarthenshire.

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT				1								1
E.GLAMORGAN	1	1	2	1						1		2
GOWER		2	1	1								
CARMARTHEN	1			3						4	3	4
PEMBROKE	1											1
CEREDIGION	2	1	2						1	4		1
BRECON	1	1	2								3	5
MEIRIONNYDD			4			1						
CAERNARFON	4	3	23							1	1	1
ANGLESEY												
Beddmanarch-Cymyran		8	8	2							8	15
elsewhere	3		4	1								
DENBIGH	2	11	15									
FLINT										1		

LESSER SCAUP *Aythya affinis* HWYADEN BENDDU LEIAF

Rare vagrant from North America. WBRC: seven previous records in Wales.

ANGLESEY: male at Llyn Llygeirian, from 20 Oct. to year end at least, was a county first.

KING EIDER *Somateria spectabilis* HWYADEN FWYTHBLU'R GOGLEDD

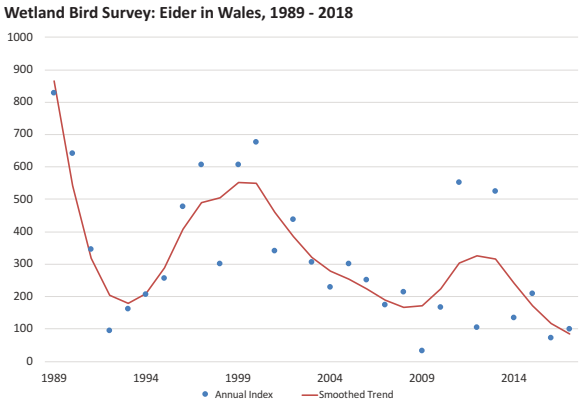
Rare vagrant from Arctic. WBRC: one previous record in Wales (in 1989-90).

CEREDIGION: 2CY+ female in the Dyfi estuary from 26 June 2017 remained throughout the year and into 2019, was also seen on the MEIRIONNYDD side of the estuary and at Aberdysynni on 16 Feb. and 19 June.

EIDER *Somateria mollissima* HWYADEN FWYTHBLU

Scarce winter visitor, with regular breeding only in the Menai Strait. Wintering numbers fell dramatically in early 1990s and have fluctuated since. Red WeBS alert: -63% long term and -61% short-term (amber alert -47% medium term). Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	124	205
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%



Breeding: MEIRIONNYDD: no records received but presumed to be breeding given the increase in birds around Aberdysynni; CAERNARFON: min. three broods at a site east of Bangor; ANGLESEY: no records to confirm breeding but 28 were around Puffin Island on 22 May.

Non-breeding: five-year mean counts in the Burry Inlet are less than half the level of the 1980s, but Eiders are doing better farther north, with stable counts in the Menai Strait. An obvious influx to the Meirionnydd coast in autumn 2018 is set in the context of recent declines here.

The monthly maxima in the principal wintering sites:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GOWER												
Burry Inlet	55	60	35	35	20	15		20	15	35	100	180
MEIRIONNYDD												
Broadwater and coast	4	5	16	50	30	24	22		22	175	181*	50
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	6	11	4	14	28	34	39	52	77	52	26	12

*county record.

Other notable records: CARMARTHEN: 37 at Penrhyngwyn on 17 March; 48 at Pwll on 12 April; CEREDIGION: 15 off Borth on 19 May; MEIRIONNYDD/CAERNARFON: 30 at Traeth Glaslyn on 20 March; CAERNARFON: 45 on 27 Oct. - including a flock of 36 – was a Bardsey day record.

SURF SCOTER *Melanitta perspicillata* MOR-HWYADEN YR EWYN

A rare trans-Atlantic visitor to Wales. WBRC: at least 63 (including those below from 2017) but regular sightings off the north coast in recent winters make it difficult to maintain a precise total.

DENBIGH: up to six males off the coast between Pensarn and Colwyn Bay from 24 Nov. 2017 to 25 March, but there were no reports in autumn 2018.

VELVET SCOTER *Melanitta fusca* MOR-HWYADEN Y GOGLEDD

A scarce and local winter visitor, regular in small numbers to some coastal counties. Occasionally recorded on passage. Rare inland. Wales Red listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	25	25
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Decreases around the British coast and the Baltic have led to the international population estimate being revised down by 55%, and the species' listing as Endangered by IUCN/BirdLife International. 2018 saw the highest number of records around Wales since 2014, but still below the 2005-17 average. The peak months were March and November, each with 11 birds.

All records: GOWER: two in Rhossili Bay on 1 Jan. and three here on 25 Nov.; CARMARTHEN: three at Telpyn Point on 24 March; PEMBROKE: male and two females off Amroth on 24 March; CEREDIGION: one off Borth on 5 March; three off Ynyslas from 20 Nov. to year end, and a fourth here on 27 Dec.; MEIRIONNYDD: two off Harlech on 20 March; four off Aberdysynni on 10-11 Nov.; CAERNARFON: single at Rhos Point on 13 March and off the Great Orme on 14 April; three past Bardsey on 29 Oct.; one off Black Rock on 26 Nov. and 28 Dec.; ANGLESEY: three passed Pt. Lynas on 27 Oct.; one off Bull Bay on 28 Oct.; DENBIGH: one off Colwyn Bay from 7 Jan. to 24 March.

COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra* MOR-HWYADEN DDU

A locally abundant coastal visitor, recorded all year round but mainly during the winter months. Numbers increasing, although there was an 18% decline in Carmarthen Bay between 2009/10 and 2016/17. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	464	435
% of BirdTrack lists	2%	2%

Main sites listed in table overleaf.

Other notable records: GOWER: 1192 in Broughton Bay on 21 Aug.; 410 in Oxwich Bay on 27 Dec.; PEMBROKE: 200 off Amroth on 31 March; 250 off Telpyn Point on 17 Dec.; CEREDIGION: 285 off Borth in Feb. and 340 here in Nov.; 192 off Aberystwyth on 28 April; BRECON: six birds at Llangorse Lake during the year; RADNOR: 15 at three reservoirs in the Elan Valley during July; MEIRIONNYDD: 1000 off Llandanwg on 4 June; 1000 off Llanbedr on 5 Aug.; CAERNARFON: 1040 off Traeth Lafan in April; 320 in Tremadog Bay in Nov.; ANGLESEY: 1100 off Fedw Fawr on 9 April; 350 off Benllech on 15 Oct.; several thousand in Red Wharf Bay on 10 Dec.; FLINT: one at Connah's Quay NR on 8 Dec.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GOWER												
Rhossili Bay	2000	105								125	700	2469
CARMARTHEN												
Cefn Sidan			500	750	15	200	650	3000	400	7500		150
Pendine/Telpyn Point		1200	500							1950		
CAERNARFON												
Rhos Point	1	100	750	1					2			5
DENBIGH/FLINT												
Rhos Point-Towyn	3800	4500	8000	6	4	13				1000	340	
FLINT												
Point of Ayr	1			6			20		200	2000		8

LONG-TAILED DUCK *Clangula hyemalis* HWYADEN GYNFFON-HIR

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant. Rare inland. Wales Red listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	**263**	**122**
% of BirdTrack lists	**<1%**	**<1%**

Following the highest Welsh counts for many years in winter 2016/17, records were far fewer this year, with a peak of just six birds in February and five in November, the lowest since 2010. There has been a 65% decline in the Baltic Sea (since 1992/93) contributing to the species' global status as Vulnerable. Two on Llyn Trawsfynydd, Meirionnydd, on 24 June were unseasonal.

Summary of records for each county:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GOWER	3	1	1	1						2	1	
CARMARTHEN	1	3	3	3							1	3
CEREDIGION											1	
MEIRIONNYDD						2						
CAERNARFON		1		1								
ANGLESEY	1											2
DENBIGH											1	
FLINT		1									1	

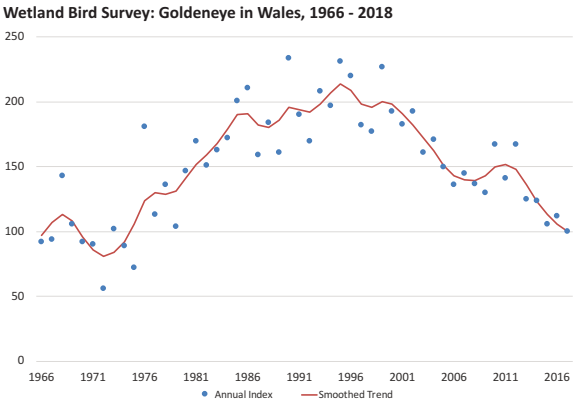
GOLDENEYE *Bucephala clangula* HWYADEN LYGAD-AUR

Locally common winter visitor and passage migrant. Amber WeBS alerts: -30% short term, -26% medium and -45% long-term. Wales Green listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	**447**	**590**
% of BirdTrack lists	**2%**	**3%**

Non-breeding: the downward trend of the Wetland Bird Survey index, which started in the late 1990s, continues with a 33% decline in Wales in the medium term. The index is at its lowest since 1974.

Counts of 10+ not included in the table below: GOWER: 11 at Penclawdd on 8 March; MEIRIONNYDD: 40 on Llyn Trawsfynydd on 19 Feb.; ANGLESEY: 11 at Llyn Coron on 12 Jan.



The number of sites holding 10+ birds at least once during the year is 31% below the 2005-17 average:

>10 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*		*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
E.GLAMORGAN								
Ogmore estuary	32	14+	14			2	5	21
Rhaslas Pond	15	15	7	3			4	8
GOWER								
Eglwys Nunydd Res.	27	7	11	4		4	17	10
BRECON								
Llangorse Lake	63	38	34	11		6	39	72
CAERNARFON								
Traeth Lafan	52	35	52	8		12	23	10
ANGLESEY								
Beddmanarch-Cymyran	2	2	1				38	58
RSPB Valley Wetlands	31	31	22	7				6
Llyn Alaw	23	8	26				7	
Llyn Maelog	8	13	10	2		1	12	16

SMEW *Mergullus albellus* LLEIAN WEN

Scarce winter visitor, subject to cold weather influxes from mainland Europe. Records have declined in recent years. Wales Amber listed. WBRC: 293 previous records.

GWENT: female at Llanbadog from 23 Nov. into 2019, also at Llandgfedd Res. on 9 Dec.; MEIRIONNYDD: redhead (female or 1CY) at Llyn Tegid on 11 Nov.

HOODED MERGANSER *Lophodytes cucullatus* HWYADEN BENWEN

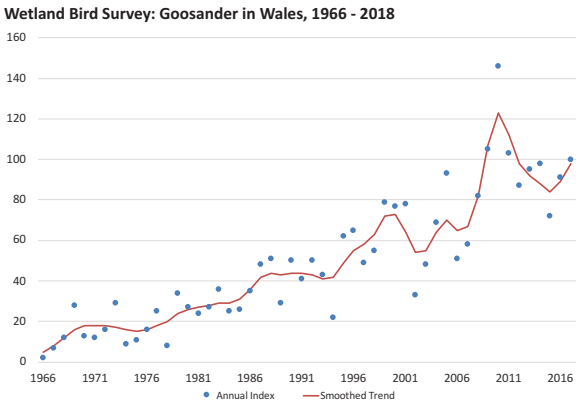
Rare vagrant from North America. No previous records in Wales accepted as wild.

CARMARTHEN: 2CY+ male at Kidwelly Quay on 7 Oct. is the first accepted Welsh record.

GOOSANDER *Mergus merganser* HWYADEN DDANHEDDOG

Breeding resident on most Welsh rivers, the population is believed to be slowly expanding but data is lacking. Most Goosanders wintering in Wales are thought to be British breeders. Wales Green listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	1213	1336
% of BirdTrack lists	5%	6%



Coverage of breeding pairs is far from complete, making it difficult to assess the impact of licences issued by Natural Resources Wales to shoot Goosanders on some rivers. There were fewer recorded broods than in any year since 2008, although no records were received from Montgomeryshire or Radnorshire in 2018.

Breeding: GWENT: broods at Llanbadoc and Abergavenny on the R.Usk; GOWER: broods at four sites and probably bred at a fifth; CEREDIGION: bred on R.Ystwyth and R.Rheidiol; BRECON: five broods at three sites, all but one on the R.Usk; MEIRIONNYDD: min. nine broods at eight sites, also probably bred at another site and possibly at three others; CAERNARFON: broods at two sites, and adults present at 10 sites; DENBIGH: five broods; FLINT: bred on R.Clwyd near Rhyl.

2017 MONTGOMERY: a few pairs bred at Dolydd Hafren and Lake Vyrnwy.

Non-breeding: numbers monitored by the Wetland Bird Survey may have stabilised following a long-term increase. The number of sites holding 20+ birds at least once during the year was typical of recent years:

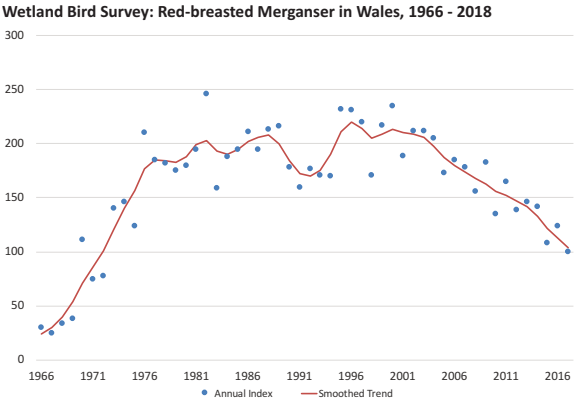
>20 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT												
Brynmawr Ponds	12	3		5							20	44
E.GLAMORGAN												
Rhaslas Pond	8	4	20	4				1	5	2	8	2
Caerphilly Moat	17	6		3								27
PEMBROKE												
Bosherton	25	12	10							5	12	5
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake	25	30	15								8	28
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	2	4	2	5	29	36	93	64	32	15	5	2

Counts of 20+ elsewhere: CEREDIGION: 21 at Llyn Eiddwen on 25 Nov.; BRECON: post-breeding group of 20 females/1CY at Newbridge-on-Wye on 10 Aug.; RADNOR: 51 at Llandrindod Lake in Dec.; DENBIGH: 53 at Gresford Flash on 21 Nov.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator* HWYADEN FRONGOCH

Locally common winter visitor, particularly to the North Wales coast. Amber WeBS alerts: -26% short-term, -37% medium and -34% long-term. Small numbers breed, chiefly in the northwest – RBBP: four confirmed pairs and three probable/possible others in 2017. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	705	812
% of BirdTrack lists	3%	4%



Breeding season (under-recorded): no records of confirmed or suspected breeding were received from Caernarfonshire, formerly this species' stronghold. GWENT: one at Sluice Farm, Peterstone, on 14 June; MEIRIONNYDD: 15 pairs possibly bred at seven sites; ANGLESEY: one brood at NWWT Cemlyn; two nests at another site.

Non-breeding: The Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales has fallen more rapidly than that for the whole of Britain, and now lies at its lowest since 1972, less than half its level during the 1990s. An Amber WeBS alert (-31% medium term and -28% long term) has been issued for Traeth Lafan/Conwy Bay SPA.

The number of sites holding 20+ at least once during the year was 33% below the 2005-17 average:

>20 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
CARMARTHEN												
Pwll	2	12	21	10								
MEIRIONNYDD												
Glaslyn/Dwyryd estuary	6	8	2						0	7	14	25
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	11	14	11	23	3	11	30	55	24	13	9	8
Foryd	2	3	1	31	4	2			3	9	4	6
ANGLESEY												
Beddmanarch-Cymyran	16	42							25	49	52	53
DENBIGH												
RSPB Conwy	21	4	19	9	2	2			9	11	14	8

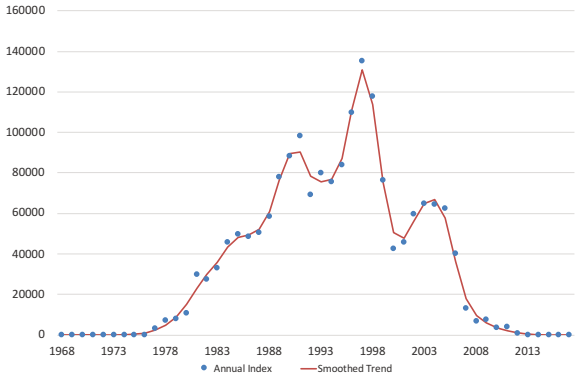
Counts of 20+ elsewhere: MEIRIONNYDD: 22 at Ynys on 9 Oct.

RUDDY DUCK *Oxyura jamaicensis* HWYADEN GOCH

Introduced (Category C), former breeding species and scarce winter visitor.

E.GLAMORGAN: female/1CY at Cosmeston Lakes CP on 25 Sept. was the first record in Wales since 2015.

Wetland Bird Survey: Ruddy Duck in Wales, 1968 - 2018



There were an estimated 4400 birds in the UK in September 2005, and the UK Government's Animal and Plant Health Agency now estimates the UK population is around 20 birds, scattered around Britain. Breeding is a rare event (last in Wales in 2008), with most birds unable to find a mate (Iain Henderson, AHPA, pers. comm. – July 2019). Since the maximum life span of Ruddy Duck in North America is 13 years, there is every likelihood that the species will disappear from Britain in the next few years. The eradication programme by Defra is part of an EU-wide project to remove the threat of hybridisation to White-headed Ducks in Eurasia.

Black Grouse (Cameron Sharp)

BLACK GROUSE *Lyrurus tetrix* GRUGIAR DDU

Breeding resident on moorlands of north Wales, but increasingly localised. Wales Red listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	92	68
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Lek surveys (organised by RSPB Cymru, Natural Resources Wales, Denbighshire County Council and Cofnod) found 328 lekking males, down from 336 in 2017, having fallen back to 2014 levels following several years of higher counts.

Survey of lekking males, with comparison to 2017: MEIRIONNYDD: 30 in the Migneint and Arenig Dduallt, down by two (but half the number of 2015); DENBIGH: 11 in Clocaenog Forest, down by one; 40 on Moel Famau, up by one; 31 in Berwyn, up by four; 239 on Ruabon Moor, down by nine.

Additional records reported to county recorders during breeding season: MONTGOMERY: one female at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy in April; MEIRIONNYDD: in the Berwyn, one at Queen's Quarry on 14 April and two at Sirior on 5 June; FLINT: one at Penycloddiau on 8 April; one on Moel Famau on 14 June.

Outside the breeding season: MEIRIONNYDD: one male on the Gylchedd, Migneint, on 24 Sept.; one at Sirior on 1 Oct. and three here on 30th; two females at Palé Moor on 2 Oct.; one female at Berwyn Hafod Uchel on 12 Nov. and at Ffordd Berwyn on 23 Nov.

RED GROUSE *Lagopus lagopus* GRUGIAR GOCH

Breeding resident on heather uplands, declining in most areas. Wales Red listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	107	117
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

A further small increase in BirdTrack records, but presumed greatly under-recorded.

Breeding (counts are individuals unless otherwise stated): GWENT: five territories on the Blorenge; BRECON: seven territories on Mynyddau Llangatwg/Llangynidr, with covey of 12 on 28 Aug. being the best since the late 1980s; survey by National Trust in central Beacons estimated the population at 20 pairs; in the Black Mountains: two pairs on Abergwesyn Common on 6 May; 1-3 on Hay Bluff in May and June (also Dec.); droppings noted above Parc Bach on 4 July; three near Llyn yn Fan Fawr on 7 Sept.; MONTGOMERY: seven at Moel y Cerrig Duon on 18 Aug.; MEIRIONNYDD: 48 pairs at Palé Moor (west); 27 pairs at Tan yr Allt; 25 pairs at Cwm Hesgyn; eight pairs at Nant Prysor; four pairs at Hirnant; 14+ pairs/broods at 12 other sites; CAERNARFON: in the Carneddau, single on Yr Arddu on 25 April and 4 June, one near Llyn Eigiau on 23 May, 2-3 near Penmaenmawr Druid's Circle in May-Nov.; five below Drum on 29 Aug. may have been a family group; in Migneint, present in Foel Boeth area in April/May, around Bryn Llech in May-Aug., and near Llyn Conwy in July; DENBIGH: 14 on Horseshoe Pass on 20 April; 12 at Llyn Brenig on 21 April; max. count on Ruabon Moor was 15 on 15 Aug.; FLINT: one on Moel Famau on 30 June.

2017 MONTGOMERY: productivity of 4.67 grouse chicks/hen at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy is the highest since 2004.

Non-breeding (in addition to sites above): GWENT: 1-2 birds at six sites, and seven birds near The British on 6 March; CARMARTHEN: six records, highest count 17 on 15 Sept.; CEREDIGION: two at Pumlumon on 15 Dec.; BRECON: two on Mynydd Troed on 17 Feb.; three on Fan Frynych on 18 Nov.; MONTGOMERY: present in Glaslyn NR in Jan. and Oct.; MEIRIONNYDD: at six sites; CAERNARFON: two on Moel Wnion in late March; two on Tal-y-fan on 12 Nov.

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE *Alectoris rufa* PETRISEN GOESGOCH

Introduced (Category C). Populations, in majority of areas where this species is found, are released for shooting.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	167	164
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

GREY PARTRIDGE *Perdix perdix* PETRISEN

Almost extinct as a breeding species in much of Wales. Remaining populations are probably maintained by releases. Wales Red listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	8	16
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

All records: GWENT: pair at Llandenny on 4 May; one at White Castle on 26 May; E.GLAMORGAN: pair bred at E.Aberthaw and probably at a site in the Vale of Glamorgan; GOWER: one at Llanrhidian on 22 June; CARMARTHEN: three at Ffaifach on 30 Oct.; ANGLESEY: three in Llandegfan (no date given); FLINT: two at Plas Bellin, Connah's Quay, on 1 Jan.; one between Dyserth and Trelawnyd on 18 Feb.

QUAIL *Coturnix coturnix* SOFLIAR

Scarce and irregular breeding species, irruptive in some years; scarce passage migrant. RBBP: 19 in 2017. Wales Amber listed.

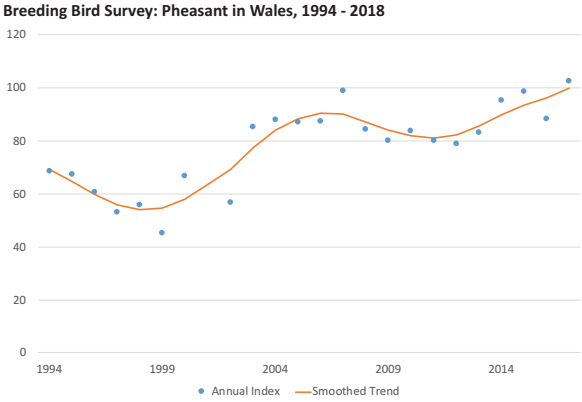
11-16 calling males was below the recent average (and excludes the Ceredigion bird in winter). All records were singles unless stated: GOWER: three at Paviland on 8 July; PEMBROKE: three near St Nicholas from 12 July to mid Aug., two at Llangloffan Fen on 21 July and two at Treseissyllt on 3 Aug. were all within a two mile radius of each other; CEREDIGION: Llanrhystud on 20 Nov. and 27 Dec. was unseasonal, and the possibility of a domestic origin cannot be ruled out; RADNOR: 2-3 birds called at two sites in June and July; CAERNARFON: flushed on Bardsey on 25 May; ANGLESEY: Hen Borth, Cemlyn, on 1-8 July; DENBIGH: one on a road near Eglwysbach on 20 July.

PHEASANT *Phasianus colchicus* FFESANT

Introduced (Category C), widespread throughout Wales. Population in many areas is maintained by releases. Some breed, but few records are included in county reports.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	2275	2455
% of BirdTrack lists	12%	13%

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales hit a record high in 2018, 55% higher than 1994. The increase during this decade - alongside the increase in BirdTrack records - suggesting that estates are releasing more birds for shooting.

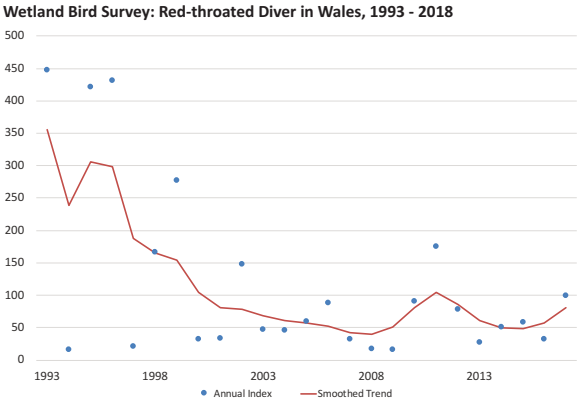


RED-THROATED DIVER *Gavia stellata* TROCHYDD GYDDFGOCH

Winter visitor and passage migrant, regularly recorded offshore, sometimes in large concentrations. Rare inland. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	203	253
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	1%

The Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales was higher than for several years in 2017/18; there are big gaps in coverage along coastal areas.



Counts from the main sites, with 20 or more at least once:

>20 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
PEMBROKE												
Strumble Head	2	3	5						7	1	31	1
CEREDIGION												
Borth/Ynyslas	13	11	21	8					12	23	40	8
Llansant-Aberaeron	1	79	3							1	3	
CAERNARFON												
*Caernarfon Bay		16	64							8	12	2
Traeth Lafan	22	69	3	42					1	6	17	2

* Fort Belan to Trefor pier.

Max. counts elsewhere: E.GLAMORGAN: 10 off Nash Pt. on 28 Dec.; GOWER: three in Rhossili Bay on 17 and 25 Feb. and eight here on 27 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: four off Pwll and another four off Cefn Sidan on 31 March; seven off Pendine on 30 Oct.; PEMBROKE: 17 off Amroth 31 March; CEREDIGION: 16 off Wallog on 12 Jan.; nine off New Quay in Feb.; four off Aberystwyth in May; MEIRIONNYDD: 16 off Aberdysynni on 14 Jan.; CAERNARFON: 10 between Little Orme and Rhos Point in Jan.; five off Morfa Bychan on 21 Feb.; nine off Morfa Abererch and seven off Morfa Afonwen on 8 April; ANGLESEY: 12 off Traeth Lligwy on 4 Feb.; 15 off Benllech on 17 Feb., 15 Oct. and 11 Nov.; 18 passed Cemlyn on 21 Sept. and 27 here in two hours on 22nd; DENBIGH: 14 at Llanddulas on 20 Oct.; 13 at Rhos-on-Sea on 21 Oct.; FLINT: singles at Point of Ayr on 5 Sept. and 23 Oct.

BLACK-THROATED DIVER *Gavia arctica* TROCHYDD GYDDFDDU

Winter visitor and passage migrant, recorded in small numbers annually. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	24	62
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

All records, singles unless otherwise stated: GOWER: Salthouse Point on 3 Nov.; Berges Island, Whiteford, on 30 Nov.; Rhossili Bay on 17 Dec.; PEMBROKE: off St David's Head on 7 and 8 Jan., two here on 14 Jan., and one on 15 Feb.; three off Strumble Head on 4 March; Newgale on 7 Jan.; off Gupton on 28 Jan.; Hakin on 7 Feb.; off Deer Park on 16 Feb.; Fishguard Harbour on 17 Feb. and 22 March; Angle on 10 March; Druidston on 20 March; off Dale on the unseasonal date of 3 May; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: Teifi estuary on 5 March; CEREDIGION: Ynyslas on 15 April and 16 Dec.; MEIRIONNYDD: south past Llanaber on 23 Nov.; CAERNARFON: off Aber Ogwen on 4 Jan. and possibly the same bird off Bangor Pier on 18 Feb.; Llanfairfechan on 6 Jan., 7 Feb. and 7 April; summer-plumage adult passed Bardsey on 16 Sept.; ANGLESEY: Llyn Llygeirian from 22 Jan. to 10 Feb. at least; two off Moelfre on 4 Feb.; Holyhead Harbour on 4 March; off Penrhos CP on 14 April; passed Point Lynas on 14 Oct.; off Traeth Lligwy on 12 Dec.; Inland Sea on 4-31 Dec.; DENBIGH: off Llanddulas on 10 Jan. and 20 Oct. and (possibly the same bird) off Pensarn on 14 Oct.

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER *Gavia immer* TROCHYDD MAWR

Winter visitor and passage migrant, recorded offshore in small numbers annually. Recorded from inland waters.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	130	235
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Selected notable counts: GOWER: six at Oxwich Bay on 1 Jan.; 1CY at Eglwys Nunydd Res. on 9 Dec. and two 1CY here on 23rd; PEMBROKE: four in St. Brides Bay in Jan. and eight here in March; five in Fishguard Harbour in Dec.; BRECON: 2CY at Talybont Res. on 17-18 Feb. (the first county record since Dec. 2012); CAERNARFON: 89 in Caernarfon Bay, off Pontllyfni, on 7 April was the second-highest site count; ANGLESEY: max. five passed Point Lynas on 24 Sept.

Approx. monthly totals for each county:

Monthly totals	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
E.GLAMORGAN	2	3	2							1	1	1
CARMARTHEN	1		1	2							2	2
PEMBROKE	8	6	10	4	3					3	7	9
CEREDIGION	2	1							1	2	1	1
MEIRIONNYDD	2	2										3
CAERNARFON												
*Caernarfon Bay	3	37	31	89	1					39	13	9
Traeth Lafan		1		1							1	1
Penmaenmawr		4									1	
Bardsey									1	9	1	
other sites	2	4+		2								2
ANGLESEY									5	1		2
DENBIGH		2								1		

* Fort Belan to Trefor pier

STORM PETREL *Hydrobates pelagicus* PEDRYN DRYCIN

Breeds regularly on several islands off the west coast, mainly in very small colonies. Skokholm holds the only population over 1000 pairs. Wales Amber listed. The count unit is the apparently occupied site (AOS).

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	**40**	**120**
% of BirdTrack lists	**<1%**	**<1%**

Breeding: PEMBROKE: two calling on Middleholm; seven AOS on Ramsey; 83 transect responses on Skokholm (*cf*. 89 responses in 2017) and estimated productivity here was 0.55 (0.5 in 2017); CAERNARFON: on Bardsey from 2 June, heard calling from various crevices and two chicks ringed from accessible nest sites at Briw Gerrig in Aug.

Non-breeding records were singles unless otherwise stated: E.GLAMORGAN: Lavernock Point on 14 June; GOWER: two at Bracelet Bay on 28 July; PEMBROKE: 166 on Skokholm on 1 July; three off Strumble Head on 21 Sept. and singles here on 16 and 18 Aug.; CEREDIGION: Mwnt on 13 July; New Quay and Borth on 21 Sept.; CAERNARFON: 81 adults ringed or re-trapped in late summer during overnight tape-luring sessions on Bardsey were presumed to be mostly non-breeding birds; one south past Bardsey on 16 Aug.

LEACH'S PETREL *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* PEDRYN-DRYCIN GYNFFON-FFORCHOG

Scarce autumn visitor, commonest off the north Wales coast. Wales Amber listed.

All records: PEMBROKE: seven off Strumble Head on 21 Sept. and three here on 23rd; CEREDIGION: one off Borth on 19 Sept.; six at Mwnt and singles at Teifi estuary and off Borth on 21 Sept.; CAERNARFON: all records from Bardsey: in Sept., one on 13th, four on 14th, 14 on 15th, one on 16th, two on 18th and six on 21st; also four on 26 Oct.; ANGLESEY: five passed Point Lynas on 27 Oct.; one at Cemlyn on 28 Oct.; FLINT: one off RSPB Oakenholt Marsh/Connah's Quay NR. on 21 Sept. (21km from the mouth of the Dee estuary); one off Point of Ayr on 23 Oct.; two off RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 26 Oct.

FULMAR *Fulmarus glacialis* ADERYN-DRYCIN Y GRAIG

A numerous but declining species, breeding in most coastal counties. Frequent offshore in most months. The count unit is the apparently occupied site (AOS). Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	684	839
% of BirdTrack lists	3%	4%

Breeding: the trend around much of Wales, confirmed by long-term monitoring at sites, is one of gradual decline over the last 20 years. Estimated productivity on Skokholm was 0.49 fledged chicks/nest (0.45 in 2017) and on Skomer was the lowest recorded since 2009 at 0.3 (0.41 in 2017). The number of pairs on Bardsey was 30% down on 2017 and 26.7% below the 10-year average; chick productivity was not monitored but was suspected to be low.

Breeding colony counts in 2018 (shaded figures show declines since the previous count):

County/Site	AOS		County/Site	AOS
E.GLAMORGAN			CEREDIGION	
Cwm Nash	8-18 birds		Cardigan Island	27 (29 in 2015)
Nash Point	10 birds		Mwnt	6 (4 in 2000)
Llantwit Major	6		Carreg-wynt, Mwnt	44 (96 in 1996)
GOWER			Gilfach yr halen	10 (42 in 1996)
Rhossili/Mewslade	1 (9 in 2001)		Llangrannog 1	14 (78 in 2000)
Spaniards Rocks area	0 (7 in 2001)		Tresaith 2 and 3	10 (9 in 2000)
Worm's Head	2 (8 in 1991)		Pen Glog	14 (9 in 2010)
PEMBROKE			Mwnt-Carreg-lydan	1 (7 in 1996)
Caldey	81 (90 in 2017)		Lochtyn 1 and 3	18 (45 in 2000)
St. Margaret's Island	19 (13 in 2017)		New Quay Head	7 (32 in 2000)
Giltar/Barafundle Bay	81 (92 in 2017)		Penmoelciliau	12 (24 in 2000)
Castlemartin	81 (75 in 2017)		CAERNARFON	
Freshwater W-Angle	2 (31 in 1998)		Great Orme	33 (27 in 2017)
Skokholm	217 (213 in 2017)		Little Orme	0 (2 in 2017)
Skomer	578 (675 in 2017)		Carreg y Llam	2 (2 in 2015)
St. Brides Bay S & SE	59 (43 in 1999)		Bardsey	14 (30 in 2017)
Newgale-Abereiddi	74 (162 in 1999)		MEIRIONNYDD	
Ramsey	269 (277 in 2016)		Friog cliffs	13 (25 in 1986)
Porth Gain-Strumble	142 (271 in 1999)		ANGLESEY	
Strumble Head-Poppit	156 (329 in 2001)		Puffin Island	30 (41 in 2017)
			North & South Stack	11 (25 in 2017)
			DENBIGH	
			Llanddulas Quarries	6 (25 in 2017)

Other breeding records: GOWER: present on ledges at Paviland and Broughton, but no counts reported; CAERNARFON: occupied sites at Uwchmynydd and between Porth Meudwy and Aberdaron; 16 birds and display noted at Graig Fawr, Rhiw, on 18 Feb.; one on a ledge on the quarry face at Nant y Gamar on 7 May.

Other notable records/county maxima: GWENT: one off Newport Wetlands Reserve on 15 April; E.GLAMORGAN: 15 off Lavernock Point on 26 April; GOWER: eight at Broughton on 30 Jan. and 14 here on 31 Dec.; 12 at Rhossili/Mewslade on 11 Dec.; 15 in Rhossili Bay on 28 Dec.; CEREDIGION: 25 past Gwbert on 27 Aug.; CAERNARFON: 39 in Llandudno Bay on 18 Feb.; ANGLESEY: 25 off Benllech on 9 Jan.; 28 passed Cemlyn on 3 Sept.; 17 passed Point Lynas on 12 Sept.; 12 on Castle Rock, Red Wharf Bay on 28 Dec.; DENBIGH: 10 at Llanddulas on 15 April.

Monthly max. counts at Bardsey, CAERNARFON:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bardsey	8	0	22	16	16	9	33	44	33	1	0	22

SOOTY SHEARWATER *Ardenna grisea* ADERYN-DRYCIN DU

A scarce passage migrant to western coastal areas, principally during late August to early October. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	7	17
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

All records, singles unless otherwise stated: PEMBROKE: Skokholm on 16, 17, 18 and 19 Aug. and 8 Sept.; Strumble Head: three on 16 Aug., 10 on 24th, eight on 27th and five on 21 Sept.; CAERNARFON: Bardsey on 7 July, on 7, 21, 23 and 24 Aug., two here on 16, 17 and 19 Aug., five on 3 Sept., one on 18th and five on 21st, and one on 16 Oct.; ANGLESEY: Cemlyn on 21 Sept.

GREAT SHEARWATER *Ardenna gravis* ADERYN-DRYCIN MAWR

Scarce autumn passage migrant. WBRC: 273 previous records.

PEMBROKE: five off Strumble Head on 16 Aug.; one off Skokholm on 18 Aug.; CAERNARFON: three off Bardsey on 16 Aug., one here on 19 Aug. and two on 14 Sept.

MANX SHEARWATER *Puffinus puffinus* ADERYN-DRYCIN MANAW

Breeds on Pembrokeshire islands and Bardsey. Large feeding movements and autumn passage are regular off western coasts and even well up into the Bristol Channel. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	352	540
% of BirdTrack lists	2%	3%

Breeding: PEMBROKE: census of Skomer provided a population estimate of 350,000 pairs. (*cf*. 316,000 pairs in 2011 when the island was last censused). For the first time since 1998, Middleholm was also included in the 2018 census. The number of responses in the annual census plots was also up on the previous year, but the isthmus study plot showed poor hatching success and a fairly low productivity of 0.46 fledged chicks/nest. On Skokholm, 373 responses in study area of 8000m^2 (*cf*. 295 in the same area in 2017); CAERNARFON: from 125 monitored study burrows on Bardsey, 75 young successfully fledged: 0.6 chicks/nest is 11.8% below the 2009-2018 mean and the lowest figure since the study burrows were first monitored in 1998.

Other large counts: GWENT: 301 off Peterstone Wentlooge on 17 June; E.GLAMORGAN: 600 past Lavernock Point on 14 June, 750 on 17th and 700 on 29th; GOWER: *c*.300 at Rhossili/Mewslade on 3 June; 1000 off Worm's Head on 11 Aug.; CARMARTHEN: *c*.1000 at Cefn Sidan on 29 June and *c*.900 here on 13 July; CEREDIGION: 1400 off Aberystwyth on 26 June; 2000 off Mwnt on 28 July but fewer than usual off Borth/Ynyslas in July (up to 2000 birds); RADNOR: four birds picked up during 18-20 Sept.; MONTGOMERY: several (exact numbers unknown) at Llanidloes blown in overnight on 16 Sept.; one recovered from a garden was ringed and released at Aberystwyth the next day; MEIRIONNYDD: 460 off Tonfanau on 8 July; 1000 loafing off Aberdyfi GC on 11 July; CAERNARFON: nine counts off Bardsey in Aug. of 1090-7050 birds, incl. 10,700 on 11th and 29,868 on 16th (the largest ever day count, *cf*. 25,000 in June 2013); other counts

in the table below; 1500 passed Porth Ysgaden on 30 May; 500 off Morfa Nefyn on 13 June; 110 off Criccieth on 19 Sept.; ANGLESEY: 2000 passed Cemlyn in 2.5 hrs on 21 July; 1300 passed Point Lynas on 23 Aug.; 750 passed Cemlyn on 3 Sept.; FLINT: 20+ off Rhyl on 25 Aug.

Monthly max. counts off Bardsey, CAERNARFON:
Unseasonal: a late (overwintering?) bird was seen in rough weather off Point Lynas, ANGLESEY, on 29 Dec.

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Bardsey	0	0	33	109	2274	2687	3091	29,868	843	8	0	0

BALEARIC SHEARWATER *Puffinus mauretanicus* ADERYN-DRYCIN MOR Y CANOLDIR

Passage migrant in small numbers to western coastal areas, principally during August and September. Wales Red listed.

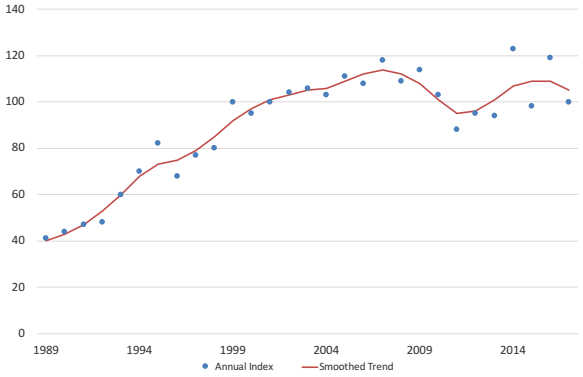
	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	5	13
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

All records: GOWER: two, possibly three, at Bracelet Bay on 28 July; PEMBROKE: off Strumble Head, 11 in Aug. and 32 in Sept., max. day count 21 on 21 Sept.; CAERNARFON: from Bardsey, nine in Aug. and five in Sept.; ANGLESEY: singles passed Point Lynas on 14 Aug., North Stack on 19 Aug. and Cemlyn on 22 Sept.

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis* GWYACH FACH

Rather uncommon breeding resident on well vegetated lakes, marshes and water courses; scarcer in the land-locked counties. Winter visitor. Wales Green listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	2387	2479
% of BirdTrack lists	12%	12%



Breeding: GWENT: confirmed or probably bred at 10 sites; E.GLAMORGAN: bred at six sites, probably at a further three; GOWER: bred at four sites; CEREDIGION: breeding season records from seven sites; BRECON: bred at two sites, probably at one and possibly at two others; MEIRIONNYDD: possibly bred on Tal y llyn; CAERNARFON: probably bred at Aber Ogwen and present at three others; ANGLESEY: bred successfully at RSPB Valley Wetlands; 11 pairs bred at RSPB Cors Ddyga; DENBIGH: bred at four sites; FLINT: bred at three sites.

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales has stabilised in the last decade following a long-term increase.

Max. monthly counts from sites holding 10 or more at least once:

>10 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT												
Ynysyfro Res.	16	16	10	16	12	10	4	7	7	12	17	15
E.GLAMORGAN												
Cardiff Bay incl. R.Taff	38	35	21	2		2	4	13	10+	6	9	5
Llanishen/Lisvane Res.	17	11	12	5	3	7	14	30	26	25	19	15
Parc Taf, Bargoed	20	13	17		4	4	4	9	12	14		21
Abercwmboi Lakes		9	p		2				2	4	7	16
Ogmore estuary	7	8	4		p				3	4	17	18
R.Ely – Leckwith to Penarth Rd	11	4	1				2	2		5	15	11
Roath Park Lake	11	8	8	5	1			2	4	6	6	8
GOWER												
Eglwys Nunydd Res.	13		6	1	1		5	9	16	14	20	11
CARMARTHEN												
Sandy Water Park	2	4	3		2	3	11	20	15	13	11	11
Power Station Pond					4	7	11	15	16	11		6
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau estuary	15	4							8	24	20	35
Pembroke Millponds	27	17	3						20	24	24	25
BRECON												
Talybont Res.	17	12	5				4	9	7	14	19	16
MEIRIONNYDD												
Tal y llyn	15							5	9	11	16	14
CAERNARFON												
Foryd	6	4	1					3	1	2	5	10
Traeth Lafan	14	3	2	1		1	3	4	6	7	7	4
ANGLESEY												
Llyn Cefni	21	13	8	2		7	29	41	32	30	21	30
Beddmanarch-Cymyran	12	6	4						11	11	13	12
RSPB Valley Wetlands	4	9	11	12	10	6	12	6	10	6	3	3
RSPB Cors Ddyga	3	12	6	3	4	4	5	2	4	2	2	5
DENBIGH												
RSPB Conwy	6	9	1	2	2	4	9	12	18+	4	7	4

Other counts of 10+ birds: PEMBROKE: 30 on Pembroke Mill Ponds on 16 Oct.; 13 at Gann estuary on 19 Nov.; ANGLESEY: *c.*20 on Llyn Cefni on 15 Jan.; 15 at Llyn Llygeirian on 19 Oct.; FLINT: 15 at Connah's Quay NR on 7 Oct.; 78 at Shotwick Boating Lake on 11 Nov.

Red-necked Grebe (Cameron Sharp)

RED-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps grisegena* GWYACH YDDFGOCH

Rare winter visitor. Wales Amber listed. WBRC: 226+ previous records.

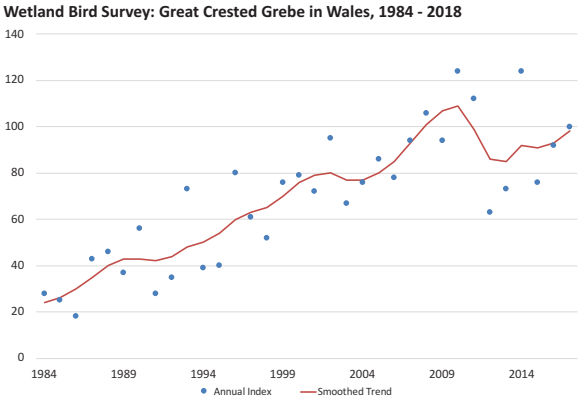
	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	11	29
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

E.GLAMORGAN: one on Roath Park Lake, Cardiff, on 19-29 Oct.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus* GWYACH FAWR GOPOG

Resident breeding species, breeding on shallow, vegetated lakes. More coastal in winter and recorded on passage from several counties. Wales Green listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	1541	1898
% of BirdTrack lists	7%	9%



Breeding: GWENT: bred at three sites, and present at several others; E.GLAMORGAN: eight pairs bred at seven sites, possibly at two others; GOWER: three pairs bred at Eglwys Nunydd Res.; MONTGOMERY: present at Lake Vyrnwy and Llyn Coed y Dinas; BRECON: 4-5 nests at three sites, present at Crai and Usk Res. but any breeding attempts failed owing to very

low water levels; MEIRIONNYDD: bred at Tal y Llyn; territorial pair at Llyn Arenig Fawr; present on Llyn Trawsfynydd; CAERNARFON: bred at two sites, possibly at one other; ANGLESEY: four pairs bred at three sites; DENBIGH: bred at five sites.

Non-breeding: four years of increased numbers in the last five takes the Wetland Bird Survey index almost back to its 2010 high.

Max. monthly counts from sites holding 20 or more at least once:

>20 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT												
Llandegfedd Res.	6	6	23	18	18	16	52	22	43	43	8	11
E.GLAMORGAN												
Cardiff Bay*	39	33	40	51	27	38	42	86	30+	28	13	14
Kenfig Pool	23	10	7	4	6	3	3	2	1	4	9	9
GOWER												
Blackpill	34	36	16	6				7	3	7	20	70
Eglwys Nunydd Res.	17	18+	15	25	18	18	35	25	17	16	35	24
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	2	12	30		1		2	1		3		
Pwll/Burry Port		19	26	17					4	14		
Gwendraeth estuary	10			12					2	4	20	2
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake	21	10	20	2	7	5	2	4	2	14	11	12
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	72	90	19	33	5	1	9	121	30	40	115	25
Penmaenmawr	15	41						12	3	1	24	1
ANGLESEY												
RSPB Valley Wetlands	11	12	20	18	27	18	22	44	50	42	18	11
Beddmanarch-Cymyran	3	43	13						36	34	38	27

*some counts include Cardiff Bay Wetlands Reserve

Other counts of 20+ birds: GOWER: 116 off Aberavon Beach, Swansea Bay, on 2 Nov.; *c*.150 off Crymlyn Burrows on 4 Nov. and 50+ here on 29 Dec.; ANGLESEY: 54 off Benllech on 1 Jan.; 20 in the Alaw estuary on 17 Feb.; 39 on the Inland Sea on 25 Oct.; DENBIGH: 32 off Colwyn Bay on 14 Jan.; 20 off Belgrano on 18 Feb.; 80+ off Llanddulas on 21 Feb.

SLAVONIAN GREBE *Podiceps auritus* GWYACH GORNIOG

Scarce and local winter visitor, chiefly to coastal waters, occasionally recorded on passage. Rare inland. Wales Red listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	**96**	**229**
% of BirdTrack lists	**<1%**	**<1%**

Main sites in the table overleaf. Other records, singles unless otherwise stated.

First winter period: E.GLAMORGAN: one of two at Kenfig Pool in Dec. 2017 remained until 12 Feb.; Barry Docks on 11-16 Jan.; GOWER: Rhossili on 23 Jan.; Swansea Bay on 22

Feb.; CARMARTHEN: five at Machynys on 3 April; PEMBROKE: Angle Bay on 21 March; MEIRIONNYDD: two in Jan. and one in Feb. at Glaslyn/Dwyryd estuary; one on Llyn Tegid on 21 Jan. was the first inland county record; CAERNARFON: off Llandudno on 2 Jan.; two off Morfa Bychan on 10 Jan.; ANGLESEY: Beddmanarch Bay between 1 Jan. and 31 March (max. three on 8 Jan.); one regularly on the Inland Sea; Foel Ferry on 21 Feb.; by the weir at Cemlyn on 4-15 March; Silver Bay on 14 April.

Second winter period: E.GLAMORGAN: Kenfig Pool from 19 Nov. to 31 Dec.; PEMBROKE: Aberforest on 29 Nov.; CEREDIGION: RSPB Ynys-hir on 9 Nov.; CAERNARFON: three off Criccieth on 15 Nov.; Fort Belan on 28 Dec.; ANGLESEY: small numbers in Beddmanarch Bay and the Inland Sea from 5 Oct. (three from 19 Nov.) to the year-end; FLINT: Rhyl Brickfields Pond LNR from 19 Nov. to 7 Dec.

Main sites that regularly hold Slavonian Grebes:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GOWER												
Burry Inlet, south side	2	3	1-2	6					1		3	3
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	5	3	4	3							1	1

BLACK-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps nigricollis* GWYACH YDDFDDU

Rare winter visitor to coastal waters, occasionally recorded on passage. Formerly bred on Anglesey. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	55	66
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Singles unless otherwise stated: GWENT: one at Llandegfedd Res. on 23 March, another here on 1-3 Sept.; E.GLAMORGAN: Ogmore estuary on 2 March; Cardiff Bay from 10 Sept. to 16 Oct. and another here on 18-31 Dec.; GOWER: Whiteford on 7 Jan.; ANGLESEY: up to five summer-plumage birds off Gallows Point, Beaumaris, on 26-30 April.

WHITE STORK *Ciconia ciconia* CICONIA GWYN

Scarce visitor, some records may be escaped individuals. WBRC: 64+ previous records.

All sightings were considered likely to be the same individual moving south. CARMARTHEN: Johnstown on 21 April; CEREDIGION: Nant-yr-Arian on 19 April; MEIRIONNYDD: Rug Capel, Corwen on 11 April; DENBIGH: Llantysilio on 12-15 April.

GLOSSY IBIS *Plecadis falcinellis* CRYMANBIG DDU

Rare visitor from Europe. WBRC: 134+ previous records.

E.GLAMORGAN: one at Llancadle on 29-31 Aug.

SPOONBILL *Platalea leucorodia* LLWYBIG

Uncommon visitor to Wales, recorded mainly from estuaries and coastal lagoons and occasionally over-wintering and summering. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	181	185
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

The table below shows that Spoonbills are over-summering at a couple of wetlands in South Wales, perhaps a precursor to nesting, which now occurs in two English counties.

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT												
Newport Wetlands			1	1	1	1						
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	2	2	3	3	3	3	2	2		1	1	1

Elsewhere: GWENT: one east over Peterstone Gout (no date provided); E.GLAMORGAN: 1CY at Cosmeston Lakes CP on 28 Sept.; GOWER: two 1CY over Llanrhidian Marsh and Staffal Haegr on 16 Jan.; two south of Loughor Bridge on 3 April; two at Penclawdd mudflats on 15 April (all probably same as Penclacwydd, in table); PEMBROKE: two over Skomer on 19 May; one in St. Bride's Bay on 29 Sept.; one at the Gann estuary on 18-28 Oct. was also on Dale Airfield on 28th; MEIRIONNYDD: one over Porthmadog Cob on 18 July; ANGLESEY: one over RSPB Cors Ddyga on 6 April; FLINT: one at White Sands on 4-25 Oct.

BITTERN *Botaurus stellaris* ADERYN Y BWN

Scarce but regular winter visitor, and breeding again on Anglesey since 2016. RBBP: six booming males and three nests in 2017. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	78	58
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Breeding season: four booming males. Breeding occurred again in Anglesey, and surely can't be far away in South Wales, given an expanding population in Somerset, and August records in East Glamorgan. ANGLESEY: two booming males at RSPB Valley Wetlands but breeding not proven; two booming males at RSPB Cors Ddyga, where there were two nests but successful breeding could not be confirmed.

Non-breeding records away from nest sites, all single birds unless otherwise stated.
First winter period: E.GLAMORGAN: Kenfig NNR on eight dates between 1 Jan. and 18 Feb.; two at Cardiff Bay Wetlands Reserve on 6 Jan. and singles here on 10 dates between 7 Jan. and 23 March; GOWER: at Staffal Haegr and Llanrhidian on 21 Feb.

Second winter period: E.GLAMORGAN: Kenfig NNR on 12, 22 and 25 Aug.; Cosmeston Lakes CP on nine dates between 30 Sept. and 9 Dec.; Cardiff Bay Wetlands Reserve on 2 Nov.; Kenfig NNR on four dates in Dec.; PEMBROKE: Newgale on 16 Feb.; BRECON: Llangorse Lake on 22 Sept.

NIGHT-HERON *Nycticorax nycticorax* CREYR Y NOS

Rare visitor from southern Europe; WBRC: 46 previous records.

E.GLAMORGAN: one at Ely, Cardiff, on 10 June.

GREEN HERON *Butorides virescens* CREYR GWYRDD

Rare visitor from North and Central America. BBRC: one previous record, on Anglesey in 2005.

PEMBROKE: one at Llanmill from 28 April to 7 May.

SQUACCO HERON *Ardeola ralloides* CREYR MELYN

Rare visitor from Mediterranean. BBRC: 12 previous records.

PEMBROKE: 3CY+ at Llangwm Pill on 3 July.

CATTLE EGRET *Bubulcus ibis* CREYR Y GWARTHEG

Scarce visitor; WBRC (until 31 December 2018): 89 previous records. RBBP: two possible breeding pairs in 2017, and at least one pair nested just over the Flintshire border at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands.

The 33 birds listed (assuming no double-counting that is not reported below) is a new annual total, after the 27 in 2017.

Singles unless otherwise stated: GWENT: two at Magor Marsh on 16-21 April; possibly one of these at Newport Wetlands Reserve Goldcliff on 22 April; 1CY at Newport Wetlands Reserve Goldcliff on 29 July; Dingestow on 18 Sept.; GWENT/E.GLAMORGAN: Sluice Farm/Wentlooge Level on 4-6 Jan.; E.GLAMORGAN: Gilestone on 10 Oct.; two at Kenfig on 28-29 Oct., one still here on 31st and probably same on 30 Nov. and 24 Dec.; Gilestone on 6 Nov., then at Dunraven Bay and St Bride's Major on 7 Nov.; four at Porthcawl on 31 Dec. and into 2019; CARMARTHEN: Penclacwydd on 15-16 Sept. and 8-9 Oct., two here on 28 Oct. and presumed same on 11-12 Nov.; CARMARTHEN/CEREDIGION: Lampeter on 29 Nov.; PEMBROKE: Skokholm on 9 Oct.; Gann estuary on 4 Nov.; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: Teifi estuary from 7 Nov. to year end; CEREDIGION: Aberleri/Ynyslas from 16 Sept. to 3 Oct., and two here on 26th; BRECON: Llangorse Lake on 11-23 Oct.; MEIRIONNYDD: Porthmadog Cob on 28 Oct., believed to be the same bird seen at Pwllheli, CAERNARFON on 24 Oct. and possibly the one seen at Bardsey on 14 Oct.; CAERNARFON: Bardsey on 14 Oct., then at Aberdaron on 15th; different bird on Bardsey on 15 Oct.; ANGLESEY: three at Pont Marquis from 26 Nov. 2017 stayed to 23 Feb. (four here on 1 Jan.); seven northeast past Cemlyn on 29 Oct.; Inland Sea on 19 Oct.; Pont Marquis on 11 Dec.

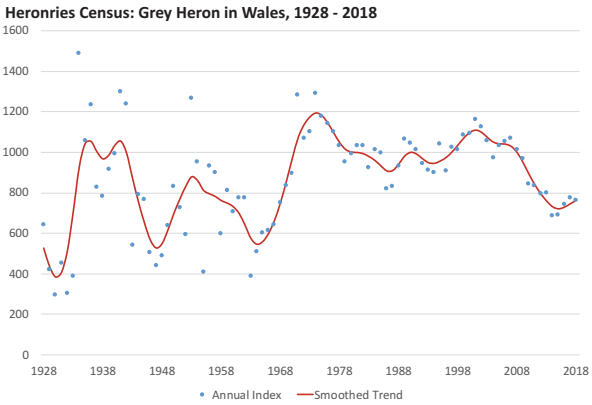
GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea* CREYR GLAS

Resident breeding species occurring widely around estuaries, lakes and inland watercourses; the BTO Heronries Census shows a 38% decline since 1935 and 28% during 2007-17. Count unit is Apparently Occupied Nests (AON). Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	4306	4187
% of BirdTrack lists	22%	21%

Grey Herons recorded by the Breeding Bird Survey have returned to their 1994 level after recovering from a low point in 2011, while the Wetland Bird Survey index has been fairly level since the start of this century (graphs not shown). The Heronries Census index has shown a different picture since its most recent peak at the turn of this century, but it does seem that the decline may have bottomed-out.

Bird reports suggest around 325 nests in 45 heronries (*cf*. 240 nests in 40 heronries in 2017), with another four heronries in Denbighshire for which no counts were published.



Breeding: GWENT: 67 nests at eight heronries; E.GLAMORGAN: 47 nests at five heronries but none at Roath Park Lake where the small heronry is assumed to be extinct; GOWER: 19-21 nests at seven heronries; PEMBROKE: 39 nests at eight heronries; CEREDIGION: eight nests at one heronry in the Garth area; BRECON: 84 nests at four heronries; high predation rates by rats and probably otter affected breeding success at Ffordd Fawr where only six young fledged from 25-30 eggs; MEIRIONNYDD: 13+ nests at five heronries; a new heronry at Glan y Morfa, Dyfi Junction, fledged 11 young; CAERNARFON: 48 nests at seven heronries; DENBIGH: four heronries.

Monthly counts from selected sites holding 10+ birds at least once:

>10 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT												
Newport Wetlands	5	4	7	3	2	2	14	7	3	3	2	4
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau estuary	4	4	4			14	30		15	19	4	6
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	9	18	7			3	4	21	17	3	16	22
ANGLESEY												
Church Island					7				18		28	
Beddmanarch-Cymyran	6	18							12	9	2	21
RSPB Cors Ddyga	9	2	8	4	13	9	11	6	9	12	5	4
DENBIGH												
RSPB Conwy	20	4	3	3	7	8	11	17		20	25	15

Other records of 10+ away from breeding colonies: E.GLAMORGAN: 10 at Ogmore estuary on 9 Feb.; PEMBROKE: 11 at West Williamson on 13 Aug.; ANGLESEY: 23 on Ynys Welltog on 30 Dec.; DENBIGH: 26 at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari, on 5 Feb.; FLINT: 16 at White Sands on 7 Oct.

GREAT WHITE EGRET *Ardea alba* CREYR MAWR GWYN

Increasingly regular visitor, occurring at any time of the year. RBBP: no breeding attempts yet in Wales but a pair probably bred in a reedbed on the Wirral side of the Dee estuary in 2017.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	**546**	**498**
% of BirdTrack lists	**1%**	**<1%**

It has become increasingly difficult to calculate the number of individual Great White Egrets in Wales, especially since birds will readily commute between wetlands some distance apart, and this

may be the last year that we attempt an estimate. In 2018, we estimate there were 138 individuals, compared to 95 in 2017 and 50 in 2016. It is difficult to iron out birds that move from one part of Wales to another. County records are being beaten almost annually, but 10 roosting regularly in Gower is a new Welsh record count.

All records	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT	2				1			1	2		3	
E.GLAMORGAN					1	2	3			1	3	3
GOWER			6							8	10	4
CARMARTHEN	4	5	6	2					3	7	4	4
PEMBROKE	1	3		1					3	5		1
CEREDIGION	1	2		1						5	1	1
CERE/MONT/MEIR. Dyfi estuary	3	1	1			1		1		1	1	
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake	3	5	4		1		2		3	2	6	3
elsewhere		1								2	1	2
RADNOR	recorded from nine sites: minimum of four birds throughout year											
MONTGOMERY	2		2						1	1	1	3
MEIRIONNYDD			1							2		
CAERNARFON			1						5	2		
ANGLESEY	1							3	1	5	6	3
DENBIGH	1			1				1	5			
FLINT	4		4					4		4		

Largest groups: E.GLAMORGAN: two at Kenfig river mouth from 28 June to 10 July; two at Kenfig Pool on 9-27 Dec.; GOWER: 10 at the Staffal Haegr roost on several dates in Nov. and at Wernffrwd on 10th and 28th; CARMARTHEN: five at Pembrey Harbour on 10 Oct. was a county record; PEMBROKE: three over Pencarnan, St. David's and Martin's Haven on 30 Sept.; four over Brynberian on 21 Oct. (same as in Ceredigion); CEREDIGION: four south over Llansantffraed and Aberaeron on 21 Oct.; CAERNARFON: four over Craig y Don, Llandudno, on 29 Sept.; ANGLESEY: three east over Cemlyn on 10 Oct.; DENBIGH: four at RSPB Conwy on 29 Sept.; FLINT: four at various locations on the Dee estuary throughout the year.

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta* CREYR BACH

Scarce but increasing breeder (RBBP: 147 nests at 16 sites in 2017) and a fairly common autumn migrant. Wales Green listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	3492	2994
% of BirdTrack lists	17%	14%

Breeding: 10 colonies, most within existing Heronries, held a minimum 73 nests, both figures lower than in 2017. Several observers have commented on the impact of the cold weather in early March on nesting attempts. GWENT: eight nests at Magor Marsh; one nest at Llanhennock; none at Whitson Court, which held two in 2017; E.GLAMORGAN: two 1CY at Ogmore estuary on 20 July; CARMARTHEN: at least 10 pairs bred at one site; RADNOR: one, possibly two, nesting attempts failed at an early stage; MEIRIONNYDD: four flew towards the heronry at Dolrhyd, Dolgellau, on 2 May but no nests were found here; at least one bird in the Trefri, Dyfi, heronry on 25 May; at least two nests in the Trefri, Aberdyfi, heronry; CAERNARFON: 28 nests at Glynllifon; 17 nests at Abercegin; six nests at Coed Benarth; DENBIGH: bred at a heronry near Tal-y-Cafn but no counts published; FLINT: nest seen in the rookery wood at Talacre.

Non-breeding: another new high for the smoothed Wetland Bird Survey index; the setback at the start of the decade following two hard winters has slowed but not staunched the establishment of the species in Wales.

Little Egret (Steve Ransome)

A summary of counts at the main sites (30+ at least once):

>30 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT												
Magor Marsh	1	18	4	25	23		3	7	32		1	
GOWER												
Llanrhidian/Staffel Haegr	15	23	24	29	25	6		4	5	30	80	70
Upper Loughor est.	2	6	7	7	7	20	43	24	18	17	3	1
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	7	7	6	15		5	111	176	80	33	24	6
Gwendraeth est.	4	3	3				10	19	30	7	15	3
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau est.	23	20	16			4	15		48	58	28	20
MEIRIONNYDD												
Glaslyn/Dwyryd est.	6	10	5						14	30	11	9
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	10	12	2	27	10	13	44	105	125	76	14	7
ANGLESEY												
Beddmanarch-Cymyran	4	3							46	34	8	15
DENBIGH												
RSPB Conwy				3	9	16	56	101	117	48	11	1

Other counts of 30+ birds: GOWER: 32 below Weobley Castle on 24 Jan.; PEMBROKE: 41 at Radford Pill on 11 Jan.; ANGLESEY: 32 flying to roost from Malltraeth Cob on 12 Jan. and 40 here on 23 Feb.; FLINT: 50 at Connah's Quay NR on 22 Aug.; 42 near Rhyl on 1 Sept.; 41 at White Sands on 12 Nov.

Wetland Bird Survey: Little Egret in Wales, 1993 - 2018

GANNET *Morus bassanus* HUGAN

Common offshore throughout the year, most plentiful during the extended breeding season, March-October. One major breeding colony on Grassholm, Pembrokeshire, where numbers increased from c.7000 AON in 1948 to 36,000 AON in 2015. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	952	1027
% of BirdTrack lists	5%	5%

Breeding: PEMBROKE: bred on Grassholm but no census records this year.

Notable counts: GWENT: two June records, five and three, heading down-channel at Sluice Farm and St. Bride's respectively; E.GLAMORGAN: 20 off Lavernock Point on 26 April; GOWER: 15 off Worm's Head on 11 Aug.; one inland over Morfa Tip/Morfa Pinewood on 29 June; CEREDIGION: 180 off Gwbert on 27 Aug. and 189 here on 19 Sept.; 144 past Teifi estuary mouth on 21 Sept.; 167 off Aberystwyth on 22 Oct.; MEIRIONNYDD: 150 off Broadwater on 8 July; one at Ynys Saltings, Dyfi Junction, on 12 July (10km from the sea); CAERNARFON: 80 off Morfa Abererch on 28 Oct.; ANGLESEY: 290 off Cemlyn on 3 Sept., 260 here on 20 Sept. and 154 on 21 Sept.; 170 off Point Lynas on 24 Oct.; FLINT: 40 at Point of Ayr on 17 June.

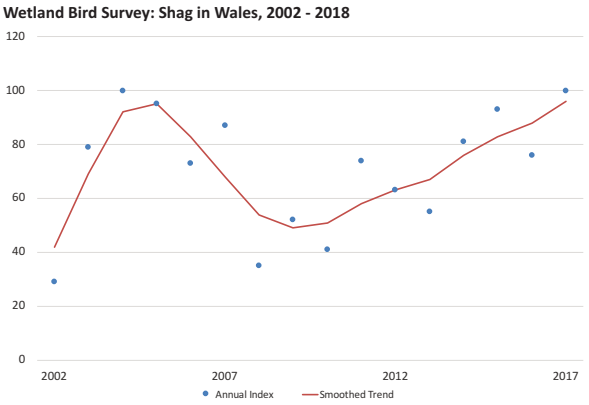
Max. monthly counts from Bardsey, CAERNARFON:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Bardsey	4	1	15	24	44	313	121	334	582	412	6	8

SHAG *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* MULFRAN WERDD

A regular breeding species on rocky coasts from Gower north to Anglesey. Wales Amber listed. The count unit is the apparently occupied nest (AON).

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	705	1046
% of BirdTrack lists	4%	6%



Breeding: PEMBROKE: declines recorded at most colonies, which are generally small and quite scattered: 79 AON at 12 locations; CEREDIGION: 4 AON on Cardigan Island (*cf*. 4 AON in 2015); 8 AON at Pen Glog (*cf*. 5 AON in 2010); 4 AON at Lochtyn 1 (*cf*. 1 AON in 2000); 5 AON at New Quay Head (*cf*. 8 AON in 2000); 4 AON at Penmoelciliau (*cf*. 4 AON in 2000); CAERNARFON: 45 AON on Bardsey (as in 2017), 25% above the 2009-2018 mean, and min. 94 young fledged (productivity 2.09 young/nest, a 4.5% increase on the 2009-18 mean); 46 AON on Ynys Gwylan Fawr and 20 AON on Ynys Gwylan Bach; the combined total is a 28.3% increase on the 2009-2018 mean but productivity was poor (52 juveniles on Ynys Gwylan Fawr and 29 on Ynys Gwylan Bach = 1.23 young/nest), 30.1% below the 10-year mean; eight AON at Carreg y Llam; ANGLESEY: 14 AON at Bodorgan Head (*cf*. 29 AON in 2016); 19 AON at Ynys yr Adar (*cf*. 20 AON in 2016); 8 AON at RSPB South Stack (*cf*. 8 AON in 2015); *c*.356 AON on Puffin Island (*cf*. *c*.425 AON in 2017); four pairs nested on The Skerries.

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales has returned to its 2005 level, although the survey is probably not representative of the whole population.

Max. monthly counts from Bardsey, CAERNARFON:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Bardsey	5	3	17	54	66	56	78	141	59	51	5	5

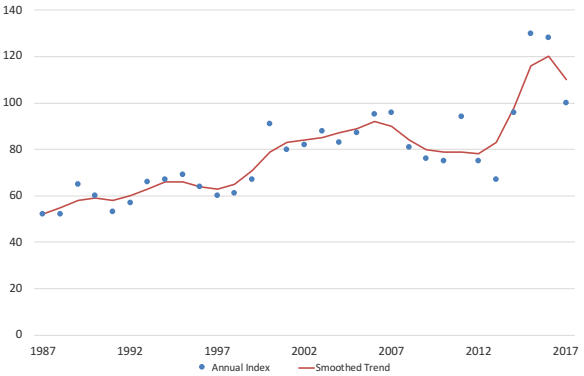
Max. counts elsewhere: GOWER: eight in Rhossili Bay on 17 Dec.; eight at Mewslade/Fall Bay on 18 Dec.; PEMBROKE: 26 at Nevern estuary on 14 Jan.; 13 in Fishguard Harbour on 29 Aug.; CEREDIGION: 22 at Ynyslas on 11 Jan.; 20 at Gwbert on 22 Sept.; MEIRIONNYDD: 16 at Broadwater/Aberdysynni on 14 Jan. and 20 off Aberdysynni on 24 Oct.; CAERNARFON: 37 at Foryd and 17 at Lower Conwy estuary in Jan.; 15 in Caernarfon Bay in May; ANGLESEY: *c*.50 at Ynys Llanddwyn on 28 May; 23 on Ynys Moelfre on 6 Aug.; DENBIGH: nine at Rhos-on-Sea on 18 Feb.

CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo* MULFRAN

Breeding resident in coastal counties from Gwent to Anglesey. Frequently seen offshore in other counties. The count unit is the apparently occupied nest (AON). A regular visitor to inland freshwaters. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	**5004**	**4970**
% of BirdTrack lists	**26%**	**26%**

Wetland Bird Survey: Cormorant in Wales, 1987 - 2018



Breeding population is generally stable or increasing in West Wales but declining at some North Wales colonies. GWENT: 54 AON on Denny Island; GOWER: 2 AON at Worm's Head; PEMBROKE: 201 AON at eight colonies (incl. 140 on St. Margaret's Island and 31 on Green Scar); CEREDIGION: 15 AON at Llangrannog (*cf*. 8 AON in 2000); 48 AON at Pen Glog (*cf*. 29 AON in 2010); 8 AON at New Quay Head (*cf*. 12 AON in 2006); 4 AON at Penmoelciliau (*cf*. 1 AON in 2002); MEIRIONNYDD: 2-3 pairs possibly nested on Friog cliffs; 55 AON on Craig yr Aderyn (*cf*. 54 in 2015); CAERNARFON: 158 AON on Little Orme (*cf.* 590 AON in 2017); 35 AON on Great Orme; 5 AON at Carreg y Llam; no breeding birds found on Ynys Gwylan Fawr in May but 14 AON on Ynys Gwylan Bach on 30th, the highest count since 2007, but the combined population is 47.5% down on the 2009-2018 mean, and productivity was 54.9% lower than the 2009-18 mean; ANGLESEY: *c*.476 AON on Puffin Island (*cf. c*.455 AON in 2017); 28 AON at Bodorgan Head (*cf*. 19 AON in 2010); 28 AON at Ynys yr Adar (*cf*. 46 AON in 2016).

The smoothed Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales reached an all-time high in 2016/17, and then dropped back by 28% in 2017/18.

Maximum counts from the main estuarine and inland sites of 50+ at least once:

>50 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT												
Llandegfedd Res.	14	16	19	21	6	22	32	60	138	58	44	43
E.GLAMORGAN												
Cardiff Bay	77	47	18	18	12	14	25	38	57	40+	108	65
Roath Park Lake	47	62	11			2		5	13	67	28	52
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	65	33	42	11		13	40	30	26	54	110	85
CEREDIGION												
Ynyslas/Leri est.									126			
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake	23	48	19						50	100	67	61
MEIRIONNYDD												
Broadwater	10	2	21			32	47		52	14		
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	35	35	21	12	3	12	17	44	51	19	17	30
Great Orme	6			50	6			20		1		2
Little Orme		1	2	350		45		752				
Rhos Point	3	5				60			42		20	12
DENBIGH												
Kinmel Bay				100+						100+		
FLINT												
Rhuddlan		100		72	90		110		62	120	87	170
Gronant	85	126	49	109	120		96	18	154	128	312	390
Point of Ayr	28	25	6	5		2	1	2	29	26	85	25

Other counts of 50+: GOWER: 60 at Weobley on 13 July; PEMBROKE: 72 in Fishguard Harbour on 6 Jan.; CEREDIGION: 126 on the Dyfi at high-tide on 11 Sept.; ANGLESEY: 69 on Ynys Moelfre on 6 Aug.; DENBIGH: 53 at Horton's Nose on 18 Feb.; 60 at Rhos-on-Sea on 6 June; FLINT: 150-270 on the R.Clwyd near Rhyl on various dates; 298 in the Dee estuary, near Flint, on 21 Jan.

2017 MONTGOMERY: highest inland count: 24 at Llyn Coed y Dinas on 24 Aug.

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus* GWALCH Y PYSGOD

A small breeding population has become established since 2004 (RBBP: 6-7 nests in 2017). Elsewhere, an annual spring and autumn passage migrant.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	152	150
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Five nests, incl. one in Denbighshire for the first time. In addition to the nests listed below, at least two birds summered in Breconshire and another in Radnorshire, positive signs for future range expansion.

MONTGOMERY: two breeding pairs, of which the Cors Dyfi pair fledged three young; MEIRIONNYDD: the Pont Croesor pair fledged three chicks; a second nest had one chick but was probably depredated; DENBIGH: pair bred at Llyn Brenig, fledging a single chick.

Apart from the above, approximate monthly totals for each county:

Monthly totals	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*
GWENT		4	2			2		1
Llandegfedd Res.		2	1			2		
E.GLAMORGAN		3	1			1	1	
GOWER		1	1			1	2	
CARMARTHEN	1	2						
PEMBROKE		2	1			1	1	
CEREDIGION		2	3	1				
BRECON				2+				
RADNOR		1			1		2	
MONTGOMERY			1	1		2		
MEIRIONNYDD	1	1	1					
CAERNARFON		3	1		1			
Bardsey			2			3		1
ANGLESEY		1	2	1				
DENBIGH		1				1		

Ringing: CARMARTHEN: one at Kidwelly Quay on 3 April had been removed from a nest in Finland in 2014 and released in Portugal as part of a reintroduction scheme.

HONEY-BUZZARD *Pernis apivorus* BOD Y MEL

First confirmed breeding in 1992, now breeds in small numbers (RBBP: two possible nests in Gower in 2017). Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	**6**	**13**
% of BirdTrack lists	**<1%**	**<1%**

Breeding: GOWER: one pair bred.

Single birds elsewhere: CAERNARFON: male over the Carneddau on 25 July; ANGLESEY: over Cemlyn and Tregele on 30 May; DENBIGH: at Cefn Coch above the Ceiriog Valley on 29 June.

SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus* GWALCH GLAS

Common and widespread breeding resident throughout Wales, some evidence that it is declining where Goshawks are abundant.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	**1283**	**1411**
% of BirdTrack lists	**6%**	**6%**

GOSHAWK *Accipiter gentilis* GWALCH MARTH

(Re)introduced (Category C). Breeding resident in all Welsh counties, but little is known about their true status. RBBP: 44-123 pairs in 2017.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	156	185
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	1%

Breeding season: 51-82 pairs: GWENT: of 28 nests monitored, 23 fledged an average 1.95 chicks/nest in the south of the county; bred at five other sites; E.GLAMORGAN: no confirmed breeding but pairs displayed at two sites and juveniles were seen at an additional three locations; GOWER: bred at one site, fledging three young; pairs at eight other sites; CARMARTHEN: four nest sites; PEMBROKE: bred at two sites, with records from a further seven during the breeding season; CEREDIGION: no confirmed breeding although suspected at a few sites; BRECON: at least 19 occupied territories, with pairs at a minimum of 11; CAERNARFON: present at 3+ sites; DENBIGH: display recorded from Clocaenog Forest and Craig Bron Bannog.

Records out of the breeding season in other counties: ANGLESEY: one in Oct.

MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus* BOD Y GWERNI

Rare breeding bird. RBBP: four nests in two counties in 2017; occasionally overwinters.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	414	368
% of BirdTrack lists	2%	2%

Breeding: six young fledged from three of the four confirmed nests. GWENT: a pair fledged at least two young at Newport Wetlands Reserve; ANGLESEY: three nests at RSPB Cors Ddyga, all three females mated with a single male. One nest failed, the others each fledged two

Summary of other records for each county (CC+ cream crowned females / immatures):

Monthly totals	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT												
Newport Wetlands	3	2	2M	3	2	3	2	4+	6+	2	3	2
elsewhere							1					
E.GLAMORGAN				1			1	1+	2+	2+	1	1
GOWER	1		1	1			1	5	2	1	3	
CARMARTHEN								1	2			
PEMBROKE				1	2			1			2	
Castlemartin Corse	1+	2+	1+						1+	1+	1+	4
Marloes		1			1					2	1	
Skomer/Skokholm					1		1	2	3	1	1	
CEREDIGION/MONTGOMERY/MEIRIONNYDD												
Dyfi estuary	1						1	2M & CC	2+CC	CC	2CC	CC
CEREDIGION					1			1				
BRECON							imm					
MEIRIONNYDD							1					
CAERNARFON/MEIRIONNYDD												
Glaslyn est.				M								
CAERNARFON				1				2CC	CC			
Bardsey							CC	2CC				
ANGLESEY												
RSPB Cors Ddyga	M & 2CC								2M & F			
Cors Erddreiniog			CC		imm M							
elsewhere					1	imm		juv	CC+			
DENBIGH				1			2	1				
FLINT	Recorded in each month on the Dee estuary, max. six over White Sands on 6 Sept.											

young; a female was seen carrying nesting material at another site.

HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus* BOD TINWEN

Small numbers breed on the uplands of north and mid-Wales. RBBP: 29-51 pairs in 2017. Otherwise a winter visitor and passage migrant in small numbers. Wales Red listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	304	431
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	1%

Breeding: 19-29 pairs. BRECON: bred at one site, success unknown; two 1CYs at another site in Aug. may have been from here; MONTGOMERY: four breeding pairs, incl. two at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy; MEIRIONNYDD: min. 13 pairs laid 62+ eggs, 43 chicks hatched and 34 fledged; possibly another two pairs bred elsewhere; CAERNARFON: in the Carneddau, one pair fledged three young, another pair probably bred and two pairs possibly bred; on Migneint, one pair probably bred and two pairs possibly bred; DENBIGH: many sightings from Mynydd Hiraethog, no breeding recorded but a pair with two juveniles were seen on 17 July; a pair was recorded in the Berwyns in May.

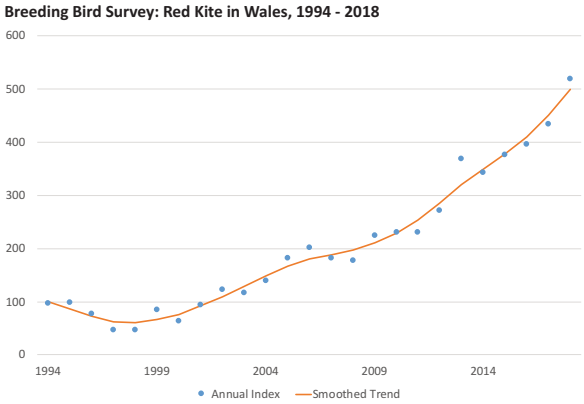
Widely recorded outside the breeding season and range. Summary of other records for each county, separated by sex where given (M = male, J = juv., RT = ringtail, i.e. female or 1CY):

Monthly totals	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT		M 2RT	2		2				3RT	2+M RT	1	1
Newport Wetlands	RT											
E.GLAMORGAN	RT	M	2M						1	2RT+	2	
GOWER	RT	RT	RT						M	1		
Llanrhidian/Staffal Haegr	M RT	RT	RT	RT					1+	1+	1+	
CARMARTHEN	3 records									13 records		
PEMBROKE	1	2									4	4
Dowrog/St. David's	2	1	1							1	2	4
Dale/Marloes	1	1	1							1	1	2
Skomer				1					1	3	8	
Skokholm			1						1	2	1	
CEREDIGION/MEIRIONNYDD/MONTGOMERY												
Dyfi estuary	M & 3RT								M & sub-ad M & 2RT			
CEREDIGION			1							2RT	M	
Cors Caron	up to 4								up to two			
BRECON		2M & RT	RT				RT	2RT	M	M		M
MONTGOMERY	1							2				
MEIRIONNYDD			1	2				1		M&RT		
MEIRIONNYDD/CAERNARFON Glaslyn	1	1	1						1	M&RT		1
CAERNARFON	1		1		M			4	1	1		
ANGLESEY	1	2RT						RT	RT	3+RT		
RSPB Cors Ddyga	2RT						imm M	M				
Cors Erddreiniog		RT										
DENBIGH	1+	1+	1+	1+						1+	1+	
FLINT	1+	1+	1+	1+						1	2	1+

RED KITE *Milvus milvus* BARCUD COCH

Formerly widespread, but almost eradicated between the late 18th and early 20th centuries. Now an increasing resident breeder in Wales. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	1568	1767
% of BirdTrack lists	6%	7%



It is no real surprise that the Breeding Bird Survey index reached another new high point in 2018, as their distribution continues to spread towards the periphery of Wales.

The range continues to extend towards the north and south coasts, with 11 nesting attempts monitored in Gwent and at least three breeding pairs in East Glamorgan.

Large counts included: CARMARTHEN: 34 at Talley Lakes on 31 Dec.; BRECON: 45-50 near Sennybridge during Feb. and 55 here on 2 Nov.

Red Kite (Tony Pope)

BLACK KITE *Milvus migrans* BARCUD DU

Scarce vagrant. WBRC: 20 previous records.

PEMBROKE: Skomer on 14 May; CAERNARFON: Bardsey on 13 May. Probably the same individual.

ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD *Buteo lagopus* BODA BACSIOG

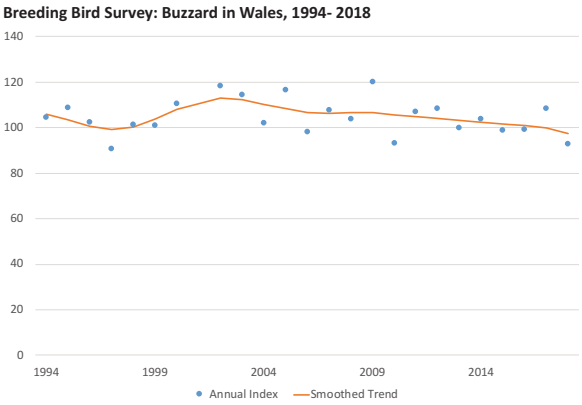
Scarce visitor, breeds in the Arctic and winters in eastern Europe. WBRC: 11+ previous records.

CAERNARFON: one over Moel Siabod on 20 Nov.

BUZZARD *Buteo buteo* BWNCATH

Common and widespread breeding resident throughout Wales.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	6113	5948
% of BirdTrack lists	30%	29%



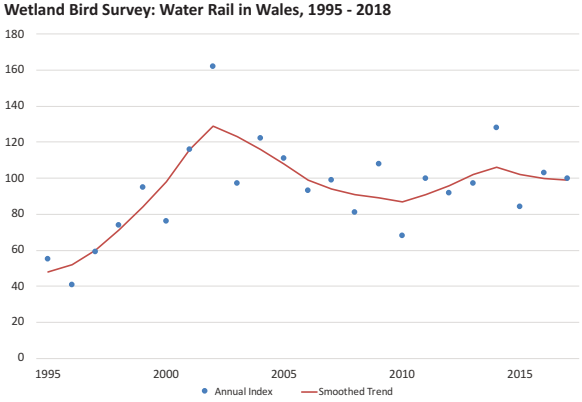
The Breeding Bird Survey index fell 14% from 2017, leading to a slight decline in the trend line since 1994, with presumably most suitable territories now occupied.

Large counts: GWENT: 20 at Llandegfedd Res. on 5 April; PEMBROKE: 28 at Dinas Cross on 2 Jan.; 31 at R.Cresswell on 26 Jan.; MONTGOMERY: 19 at Llandinam Gravel Pits on 15 Nov.

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus* RHEGEN Y DWR

Scarce breeder (RBBP: 49 territories at 26 sites in 2017), more commonly recorded as a passage migrant and winter visitor to all counties. Wales Green listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	628	667
% of BirdTrack lists	3%	3%



Breeding season: GWENT: five territorial birds at Newport Wetlands Reserve Uskmouth; five at the Moorings, Newport; seven pairs at Llanwern filter beds; pair at Nash Pools; pair at Picked Lane, Nash; pair at Greenmoor Pool; E.GLAMORGAN: territorial pairs at two sites; juvenile at another site in Sept.; CARMARTHEN: pair bred at Penclacwydd, three young seen with adults on 8 June; territorial males at Ffrwd Fen and Banc y Lord;

BRECON: juveniles at Crannog and Ty Mawr Wood; CAERNARFON: present at two sites; ANGLESEY: bred at RSPB Valley Wetlands; FLINT: probably bred at Gronant.

Non-breeding: although the Wetland Bird Survey does not census Water Rails as well as song-playback surveys, it suggests long-term stability in the population.

Maximum autumn and winter concentrations (5+):

	>5 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT	Newport Wetlands Uskmouth*	74	1	65	6						39	32	54
GWENT	Newport Wetlands Goldcliff*	1	6	4	0						6	11	6
GWENT	The Moorings, Newport*	4							6				
CARMARTHEN	Penclacwydd*	5	1	4	1	1	1				5	4	7
ANGLESEY	RSPB Cors Ddyga	6	2							1	20	5	7
ANGLESEY	RSPB Valley Wetlands	1	1	4							1	4	7
DENBIGH	RSPB Conwy	24*							2	2	1	5	

* surveyed using playback response.

Other counts of 5+ birds: E.GLAMORGAN: seven at Cardiff Bay Wetland Reserve on 6 Jan.; five at Hendre Lake on 21 Nov.; PEMBROKE: autumn influx on Skokholm peaked at 14 on 19 Oct.; 10 on Skomer on 17 Oct.; 10 at Teifi Marshes on 1 Dec.; BRECON: six around western margins of Llangorse Lake on 22 Jan.; CAERNARFON: five at Morfa Uchaf on 23 Feb.; FLINT: six at Gronant on 9 May and five here on 16 Oct.

2017 MEIRIONNYDD: five at Dolydd Hafren on 8 Nov.

CORNCRAKE *Crex crex* RHEGEN YR ŶD

Former breeder (last in 1994). Passage migrant. WBRC: 61 records since 1991.

CAERNARFON: singles on Bardsey on 16 and 29 Sept.

SPOTTED CRAKE *Porzana porzana* RHEGEN FRAITH

Rare vagrant and occasional breeder. WBRC: 43 records since 1991. Wales Green listed.

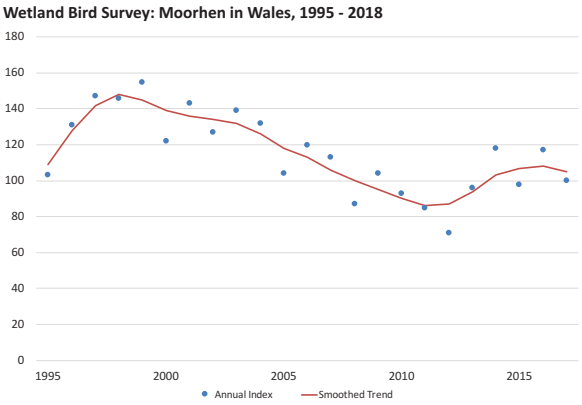
All singles: E.GLAMORGAN: male called at Kenfig on 2-3 June; PEMBROKE: Teifi Marshes on 28 July; DENBIGH: RSPB Conwy on 22 Sept.

MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus* IAR DDWR

Widespread and locally common breeding resident and winter visitor. Wales Green listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	**3975**	**3891**
% of BirdTrack lists	**21%**	**21%**

Non-breeding: the decline in numbers recorded by the Wetland Bird Survey during the 15 years to 2012 appears to have been stemmed, but the index remains 46% below its peak.



Monthly max. at the main wintering sites, with 40+ at least once:

>40 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT												
Monmouth-Brecon Canal*	67	73		47						53	73	92
GOWER												
Staffal Haegr							18		16		40	37
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	69	3	37	35	38	31	25	43	29	35	49	52
PEMBROKE												
Pembroke Mill Ponds	30	43	17						70	65	39	29
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake	20	9	8	8	10	1	15	55		1	4	1
ANGLESEY												
Llyn Cefni	3		7	1		5	27	40	23	3	5	3

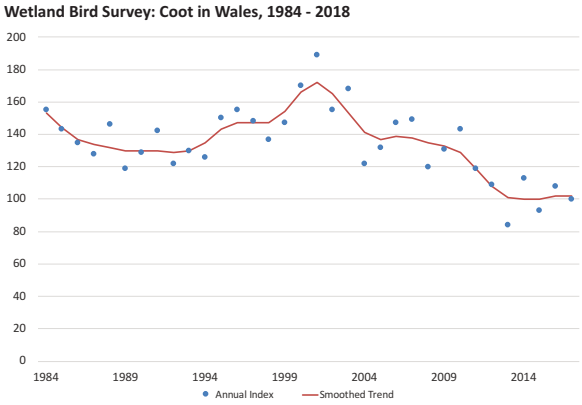
* 14 Locks to Pontywaun

COOT *Fulica atra* CWTIAR

Locally common breeding resident and winter visitor, widespread throughout Wales but declining in many areas. Amber WeBS alert: -27% medium term. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	**3198**	**3186**
% of BirdTrack lists	**17%**	**17%**

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales appears to have stabilised following more than a decade of decline at the start of this century.



Monthly max. at the main wintering sites (100+ at least once):

>100 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT												
Ynysyfro Res.	143	104	66	15	10	21	75		73	96	110	124
E.GLAMORGAN												
Cardiff Bay	200	197	109	69	51	298	318	562		38+		89
R. Ely - Leckwith	30	32	14	7	14	15	17	15		101	136	101
Roath Park Lake	251	126	76	52	45	96	50	244	283	364	201	241
Kenfig Pool	278	152	55	46	7	8	40	28	51	30	127	140
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake	409	216	124	16	16	16	30	126	200	431	384	546
ANGLESEY												
Llyn Llywenan	500	500	50	50					20		50	10
Llyn Cefni	97	66	32	10	11	35	104	184	305	454	300	262
RSPB Valley Wetlands	294	191	132	64	50	61	162	143	162	94	56	143
Llyn Alaw	7	4						300			250	

CRANE *Grus grus* GARAN

Rare visitor. WBRC: 56 previous records (excluding reintroduced birds). RBBP: one breeding pair, another non-breeding pair in 2017.

Two pairs bred, originating from the Great Crane Project reintroduction scheme in Somerset. GWENT: pair hatched two eggs but the chicks were lost after two weeks, probably depredated. During the summer, the male also disappeared and is presumed to have died. The female returned in early autumn with an unringed male; E.GLAMORGAN: pair bred in the Vale of Glamorgan but the single chick died soon after hatching; elsewhere, two at Hendre Lake on 17 Feb., two over Whitchurch on 1 May and two over Roath on 2 June are also all considered to have involved birds from the Great Crane Project.

OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus* PIODEN Y MOR

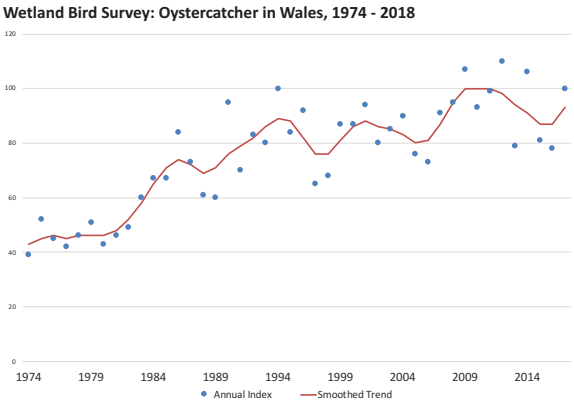
Common, chiefly coastal, breeding species and abundant winter visitor to all coastal areas of Wales. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	**4513**	**4599**
% of BirdTrack lists	**23%**	**23%**

Breeding: GWENT: three nests at Newport Wetlands Reserve Goldcliff; single nests at The Bryn and Porton; GOWER: 1-2 pairs bred at the Afan estuary; one pair at Whiteford; PEMBROKE: breeding evidence in 19 1-km squares; 60 pairs on Skomer, where 17 pairs averaged 0.71 fledged chicks/nest; 52 pairs on Skokholm; CEREDIGION: bred at New Quay, near the R.Leri and at RSPB Ynys-hir (four pairs); BRECON: attempted to breed at more sites than usual, incl. Ffordd Fawr and Llangorse (two pairs each), Pipton and R. Usk, Scethrog; MONTGOMERY: breeding attempts at Dolydd Hafren and Llyn Coed y Dinas; MEIRIONNYDD: four pairs at Llyn Trawsfynydd; single pairs at Llyn Celyn, Penllyn Pool-Tywyn and Llyn Tegid (one nest); CAERNARFON: two pairs at Morfa Madryn; one pair at Morfa Abererch; probably bred at Porth Ceiriad, Borth-y-gest, Aber Ogwen and Maes y Facrell, and birds were in likely breeding habitat at several other sites. On Bardsey, 84 pairs held territory (similar to recent years), of 55 nests monitored, mean clutch size was 2.65 eggs/nest and productivity was 0.39 young/nest,

13% below the 10-year mean; ANGLESEY: 21 pairs bred at a site in southern Anglesey; four pairs fledged eight chicks at Cemlyn; at least five pairs bred at RSPB Valley Wetlands; two territories at RSPB Cors Ddyga; DENBIGH: bred at two locations; FLINT: bred at five locations.

Non-breeding: a better year has lifted the Wetland Bird Survey out of its short-term decline, but an Amber WeBS alert (-28%) has been issued for the Dee estuary SPA.



Monthly max. for sites holding 1000+ at least once during the year:

>1000 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GOWER												
Burry Inlet south side	22,660	10,545	4000	3000	500	210	3850	4835	8960	8765	4000	7400
Blackpill	965	978	740	223	150	163	364	659	1550	2208	1461	1205
R.Neath/Crymlyn Burrows	1000	600	10	183	78	148	361	722	1000	700	1004	400
CARMARTHEN												
Burry Port/Pembrey		1000		200		246	833	800	3000			
Cefn Sidan	4127	400	563	3500						1517	300	
Gwendraeth estuary	7195	1181	1074			206				5371	2000	
Taf estuary	2200	207	398	21					60	194	107	83
CEREDIGION												
Dyfi estuary	583	557			102			631	1000	756	538	691
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	3787	3831	585	300	350	450	470	3142	5681	3000	5004	4028
FLINT												
Gronant	270	122	37	180	17		194	240	780	1206	216	882
Point of Ayr	3000	2000	60	500	353	1200	1200	8500	4000	4000	6000	5000
Mostyn	1517	550	60	330	550	12	330	800	3050	1110	1900	1600
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	40	20	26	30	140	36	70	700	1000	50	400	150

Ringing: CARMARTHEN: a colour-ringed bird at Pembrey Harbour on 13 Aug. had been ringed in southwest Iceland on 29 June 2016.

AVOCET *Recurvirostra avosetta* CAMBIG

Breeds in Gwent and increasing in eastern Flint, elsewhere still a scarce visitor. RBBP: 40 nests at two sites in 2017. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	**399**	**169**
% of BirdTrack lists	**2%**	**<1%**

Breeding: GWENT: 39 pairs at Newport Wetlands Reserve Goldcliff produced over 80 chicks, but only three survived owing to depredation by gulls, corvids and raptors.

Other records: GWENT: max. 134 on the foreshore at Newport Wetlands Reserve Goldcliff on 1 April; singles at Peterstone Wentlooge, St Brides and West Usk Lighthouse after the breeding season; GOWER: two at Daltons Pt. on 28 Nov.; CARMARTHEN: the most records in any one year; one at Kidwelly Quay on 26 Jan.; three at Morfa Bacas on 6 March; one at Llansteffan on 9 March; two at Penclacwydd on 13 March, one here on 1-4 April, three on 16 April and three from 26 Nov. to 17 Dec.; PEMBROKE: one at Hook on 30 Dec.; CEREDIGION: two at Ynyslas on 15 May; MEIRIONNYDD/CAERNARFON: two at Porthmadog Cob on 16 April; FLINT: 2-3 at Connah's Quay NR on 10 Jan.; five at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 4 March; 1-6 in these areas regularly until 10 June; 15 on Border Pool on 1 April; 38 at Shotwick Fields on 15 April. The last record of the year was a single at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 26 Sept.

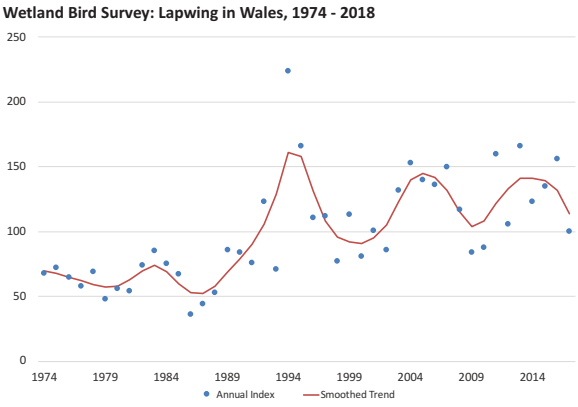
LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus* CORNCHWIGLEN

Rapidly declining breeder – almost extinct in many counties. It is also a winter visitor, principally in coastal areas and especially when there is hard weather to the east. Wales Red listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	2240	2385
% of BirdTrack lists	10%	11%

Combining the data below, Lapwings appear to have had a successful breeding season, raising 0.9 young/nest (from 281 nests), well above the 0.7 required to sustain a stable population. Most are on five RSPB nature reserves and WWT Penclacwydd where brood monitoring is undertaken, and where at least four deter mammal predation using fences. Lapwings nested at 23 sites, probably bred at an additional six sites and possibly at seven others, but mostly were single displaying birds.

Breeding: GWENT: three broods at Newport Wetlands Reserve Goldcliff; probably bred at Bulmore, Mynydd Islwyn and Garnlydan Reservoir; E.GLAMORGAN: three nests at Kenfig NNR; possibly bred on Watermill Flood, Ogmore, and at Rhymney Great Wharf; birds in suitable habitat at Parc Slip NR and Dowlais; GOWER: 12 pairs bred in fenced slack at Whiteford; two pairs with 4+ juvs at Llandarcy; two pairs at Staffal Haegr; three pairs at Velindre ex-works site; also present at Baglan Bay, Baglan Energy Park and Port Talbot Docks; CARMARTHEN: 11 pairs fledged nine young at Penclacwydd; two pairs bred at Cross Hands, but only one young fledged; CEREDIGION: 40 pairs fledged 53 young at RSPB Ynys-hir, 1.39 young/pair; pair at Cors Caron hatched two chicks; BRECON: three pairs (1+ chick fledged) at 'Rushy field', Llangorse (wet grassland); pair in spring barley at Cefnwern Lane, Llangorse; four nests in wheat/fallow by Rose Cottages, Talyllyn, all failed but adults moved to Llangasty meadows and laid three second clutches, of which one was successful, fledging 2+ young; one pair in wet grassland at Llangasty Point (failed); three nests on moorland at Garnlydan, from which 1+ chick fledged; one pair at Brechfa Pool (failed); MONTGOMERY: bred at Dolydd Hafren; MEIRIONNYDD: pair at Glan y Don-Tywyn; two pairs held territory at Penllyn Pool-Tywyn; three at Yr Ynys, Mawddach, displayed in April; one displayed on Vanner Marsh in April; pair at Llyn Mynyllod in June;



CAERNARFON: 41 pairs at RSPB Morfa Dinlle fledged seven young; max. 49 adults at Morfa Madryn and max. 27 chicks; ANGLESEY: 71 pairs at RSPB Cors Ddyga fledged 64 young; nine pairs at RSPB Valley Wetlands fledged 10 young; three at Cors Bodeilio on 9 May may have bred; DENBIGH: bred at one site; FLINT: 71 pairs fledged 75 young at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands.

Non-breeding: the sharp decline in the Lapwing nesting population is not reflected in numbers visiting from elsewhere in Europe outside the breeding season, which has cycled around a mean since the early 1990s.

Regular counts at the main wintering areas, holding 500+ at least once:

>500 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*		*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT								
Newport Wetlands Reserve	800	420	100		50	163	660	1500
Peterstone Wentlooge	350	1000	237		20	8	120	700
GOWER								
Burry Inlet south side	2010	1720	770		70	247	400	1500
Upper Loughor estuary	1190	54	15			126	400	37
CARMARTHEN								
Penclacwydd	500	432	30		84	154	587	753
Gwendraeth estuary		750			146	75	561	1500
Taf estuary	600	400						1500
Dryslwyn/Cilsan	150	544	150				96	
PEMBROKE								
Cleddau estuary	1916	2486	5			47	544	1875
CEREDIGION								
Dyfi estuary	1248	566	120			113	1802	1600
Teifi estuary	800	140	25				50	1150
CAERNARFON								
Foryd	550	660	140		71	120	650	1770
ANGLESEY								
RSPB Cors Ddyga		550					200	
RSPB Valley Wetlands	1851	1387	34		122	38	510	175
Malltraeth Cob and estuary	1140					110	605	1208
Llyn Maelog					1		324	604
Beddmanarch-Cymyran	125	44	2			226	596	538
RSPB Cors Ddyga	400	500	123				320	242
DENBIGH								
Lleweni Hall, Bodfari	519	264	36					
FLINT								
Point of Ayr		60					450	750
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	4000+	3000			110	30	1000	500
Connah's Quay NR	550	800			60	600	4000	4000

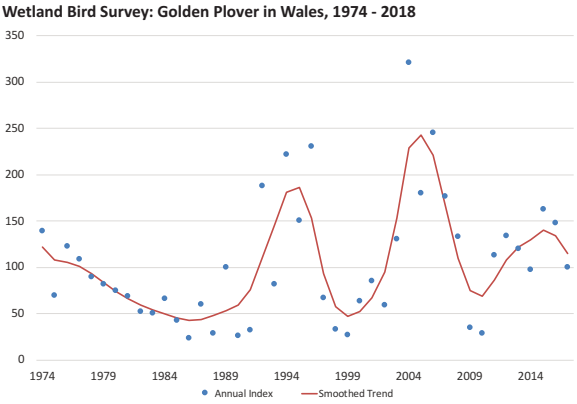
Other large flocks (500+): GWENT: 620 at Red Barn and Boat Lane on 1 Jan.; E.GLAMORGAN: 928 over Atlantic Wharf and 3500 over Ogmore-by-Sea on 1 March; 512 at Halliard Court, Cardiff, on 2 March; 650 at Merthyr Mawr on 5 March and 900 here on 6th, all associated with cold weather; PEMBROKE: 1800 at Castlemartin Corse on 15 Jan. (presumed same as 1000 at Gupton – Furzenips on 28 Jan. and 5 Feb.); 550

at Landshipping on 6 Jan.; 600 at Coedcanlas on 1 Feb.; 500 at Sageston on 5 March; 2000 at Gupton on 3 Dec.; 1600 at Castlemartin Corse in Dec.; 1380 at Hook on 11 Dec.; 500 at Puncheston on 18 Dec.; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: 1150 at the Teifi estuary on 22 Dec.; CEREDIGION: 700 at Synod Inn in Dec.; ANGLESEY: 1050 at Llyn Coron on 5 Jan.; 550+ at Llyn Llywenan on 22 Jan.; *c*.3600 at Malltraeth on 30 Dec.; FLINT: 400 over Kinmel Bay on 25 Nov. and 1000 here on 19 Dec.

GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis apricaria* CWTIAD AUR

Scarce and declining breeding species, found chiefly on the upland plateaux of Denbigh, Radnor, Ceredigion and Brecon. Localised in winter, usually in large flocks. Amber WeBS alert: -39% medium term (but +76% long term). Wales Red listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	385	510
% of BirdTrack lists	2%	2%



Breeding: one pair confirmed breeding, and 15-18 pairs probably bred. CARMARTHEN: a pair bred on Mynydd Du, fledging 3 young; BRECON: five birds were on breeding territories in the Black Mountains on 13 March, and three pairs held territory or engaged in song-flighting on 1 May. Seven nest-scrapes were found in two of these territories. By mid-June, four pairs were found, the behaviour of one suggesting that chicks were present; another pair and a single piping adult in suitable habitat on the Black Mountains in June/July; one male song-flighting over Abergwesyn Common on 6 May; two pairs probably bred in the eastern Brecon Beacons; RADNOR: 8-11 pairs at four sites; CAERNARFON: birds were reported in suitable habitat in the Bryn Llech and Foel Boeth areas of the Migneint in mid-April.

Non-breeding: although the Wetland Bird Survey rarely records Golden Plovers on farmland, the index for Wales has been cyclical for the last three decades. Cold weather in late February and early March produced westward and southward movements and unusually large counts at several sites. A large turnover of birds was recorded on Bardsey, Caernarfonshire, where at least 120 birds were found dead.

Other large winter flocks (400+) in coastal counties not included in the table: E.GLAMORGAN: 1300 west at Ogmore-by-Sea on 1 March; GOWER: 400 at The Viel-Rhossili on 3 March and *c*.500 here on 4th; PEMBROKE: 2200 at Castlemartin Corse in Jan.; 1100 at Landshipping on 23 Oct.; 800 at Brawdy on 13 Nov.; 1550 at Hook on 11 Dec.; 700 at Puncheston on 18 Dec.; 1000 at Picton Ferry on 28 Dec; CEREDIGION: 600 at Brynhoffnant and at Ferwig in Feb.; 2000 at Synod Inn in Dec.; 500 at Croeslan in Dec.; CAERNARFON: Bardsey experienced its largest ever movement, surpassing even the cold winter of 1962/63, incl. a record count of 314 on 28 Feb.; ANGLESEY: 550+ at Henborth on 22 Jan.; 400+ at Llyn Llywenan on 22 Jan.; 1500 over RSPB Cors Ddyga on 24 Oct.

Records here are rather incomplete but monthly max. at major wintering areas (holding 400 at least once):

>400 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*		*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
E.GLAMORGAN									
Sker area	568	500+	475	34		44	400	480	200
GOWER									
Burry Inlet south side	4000	2500	5100	130		434	390	3000	5000
Upper Loughor estuary	18					434	126	400	14
CARMARTHEN									
Gwendraeth estuary	725	2000	750	1250		209	2000	1000	5000
Taf estuary	1300	1000						2000	2000
PEMBROKE									
Gupton	1000								1500
Cleddau estuary	2200	1450					1600	850	1550
CEREDIGION									
Dyfi estuary	1450							784	
CAERNARFON									
Llanengan		570	1						400
Morfa Dinlle/Foryd	1100	780	920	7		100	410	840	1070
ANGLESEY									
Cemlyn		400	400				800		500

Inland sites holding 70+ birds at least once:

		Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*		*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Llandefalle Hill	BRECON				51		23	75	152
Mynydd Illtud	BRECON	40		50			150	18	69

Other large inland counts (70+): CARMARTHEN: *c.*100 at Cwmduad on 2 Feb.; *c.*260 at Garreg Lwyd on 1 April; 94 at Carn Pen Rhiw-ddu on 19 Oct.; *c.*1000 at Mynydd Llanllwni on 21 Oct.; *c.*100 at Carn Fatho, Mynydd Du, on 16 Nov.; RADNOR: 220 on The Begwyns was the largest flock in the county this year (no date provided); CAERNARFON: 70 at Rhiw Lwyd, Ysbyty Ifan, on 22 Oct.

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola* CWTIAD LLWYD

Widespread but localised winter visitor to Welsh estuaries, and spring and autumn migrant. Red WeBS alert: -57% long term and amber (-34%) short term. Wales Red listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	**306**	**239**
% of BirdTrack lists	**1%**	**1%**

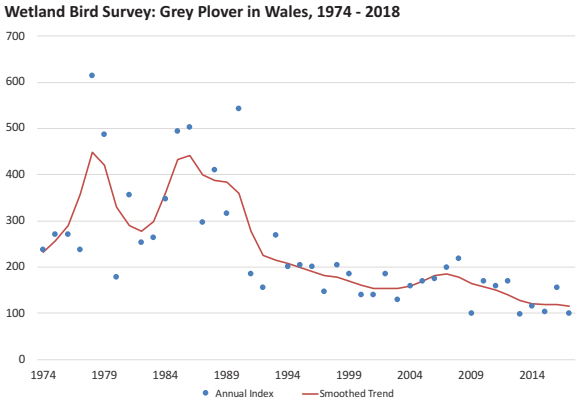
The Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales has reached its lowest point since it was created in the mid 1970s. Numbers declined significantly in the 1990s and continue to fall. On the Burry Inlet SPA, red WeBS alerts have been issued for the long (-75%) and medium term (-61%) and an amber alert (-41%) for the short term. On the Dee estuary SPA, an amber weBS alert (-37%) has been issued for the long-term.

Other counts (40+) not included in the table overleaf: CARMARTHEN: 109 at Machynys on 10 Jan.; 40 at Cefn Sidan on 21 Jan.; PEMBROKE: 118 at Freshwater West-Furzenips in Feb.; FLINT: 48 near Gronant on 21 Jan.; 58 at Point of Ayr on 11 Nov.

Grey Plover (Tony Pope)

Monthly max. at the sites holding counts of 40+ at least once

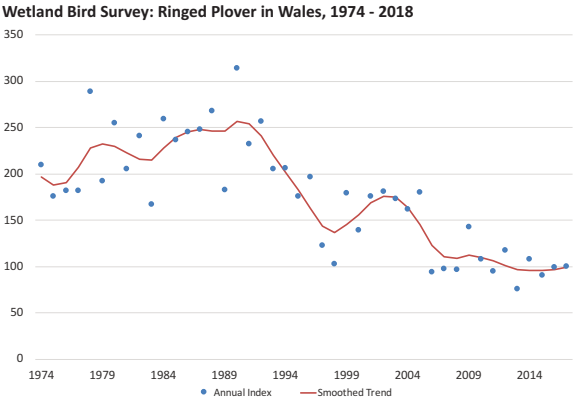
>40 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT												
Undy foreshore	22	40	15	7						3	2	
Newport Wetlands	65	97	58	6	1	2	1		1	11	4	17
Peterstone Wentlooge	7	16	54	38	3			3		1	3	14
GOWER												
Burry Inlet south side	180	30	150	20	2					5	500	45
ANGLESEY												
Alaw estuary											47	98
Beddmanarch-Cymyran	47	100	45								79	1
Traeth Melynog	51	53								4		37



RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula* CWTIAD TORCHOG

Scarce breeder. 254 pairs in 2007, but records suggest a decline since. Also, common passage migrant and winter visitor to all coastal areas. Red WeBS alert: -62% long-term. Wales Red listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	1250	1288
% of BirdTrack lists	6%	6%



Breeding: 23 pairs confirmed, and another 12 probably or possibly bred. GWENT: min. two pairs fledged young at Newport Wetlands Reserve Goldcliff; E.GLAMORGAN: two pairs bred at Sker Pt.: a nest with four eggs was found on 1 June and another pair with two chicks was seen the same day; a pair was seen with four chicks on 27 July, presumably from the second nest; GOWER: three pairs bred at Margam Sands; single pairs at Whiteford Sands and Llandarcy; two pairs were present at Whiteford, with pairs also at BP area and Baglan; CEREDIGION: pairs displayed at Borth and Ynyslas; pair present at Tanybwlch in July; MEIRIONNYDD: probably bred at Llandanwg; possibly bred at Aberdysynni/Broadwater and Tywyn sea front; a record from Llyn Trawsfynydd on 23 June could indicate an inland site; CAERNARFON: up to four pairs bred at Morfa Madryn, with several chicks seen; two fledglings with adults on Aberdaron beach in May and June; one territory at Morfa Abererch in April; ANGLESEY: three pairs bred at a site in southern Anglesey; one pair at Cemlyn fledged two chicks; DENBIGH: bred at three locations; FLINT: bred at two adjacent locations.

Non-breeding: although widespread around the Welsh coast, the Wetland Bird Survey index is at less than half its level of the 1980s.

Monthly max. at sites holding 100+ birds at least once during the year:

>100 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT												
Newport Wetlands Reserve	30	22	22	42	105	10	26	261	105	30	10	16
Peterstone Wentlooge	1				30	3		80	154	18	16	10
GOWER												
Burry Inlet south side	50	25	45	130	4		6	350	66	50	35	36
Crymlyn Burrows	48	100	2	2			3	180	214	142	200	56
CARMARTHEN												
Burry Port/Pembrey		21	12	7	15		19	150	108	217	26	35
CEREDIGION												
Borth/Ynyslas				40	68			270	249			
Teifi estuary					80			116				
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	23	46	6	5	7	10	1	110	72	36	146	25
FLINT												
Point of Ayr				8		12		173	5	22		

Other large counts (100+): PEMBROKE: 116 at Poppit on 26 Aug.; MEIRIONNYDD: 350 on the Broadwater on 24 May; 300 at Ynys, Dwyryd estuary, on 28 May; peak counts at Ynys Saltings, Dyfi Junction, 100 on 28 May and 1 June; DENBIGH: 61 at Horton's Nose on 12 and 14 Aug.; FLINT: 115+ near Rhyl on 3 Sept.

CAERNARFON: several small dark birds thought to belong to the race *C.h. psammadroma* were recorded on Bardsey in spring and autumn.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius* CWTIAD TORCHOG BACH

Summer visitor. Breeds on the gravel shoals of rivers in South Wales and industrial sites. 144 pairs in 2007. RBBP: 35 pairs in 2017. Elsewhere an uncommon passage migrant. Wales Green listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	214	171
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%

Breeding: 31-45 pairs. GWENT: bred at Newport Wetlands Reserve Goldcliff, with at least four pairs and 10 young fledged; also bred at another site; E.GLAMORGAN: bred at Hirwaun Industrial Estate, fledging three chicks; nested at Rhaslas Pond; displayed at Llanilid; present in Cardiff Bay and at Llwyn-onn Reservoir; GOWER: pair bred at Castell-du; probably bred at Rheola; present at Staffal Haegr on 19 May; CARMARTHEN: survey of the R.Tywi between Carmarthen and Llandovery found 21 nests, from which 39 young fledged (*cf*. 59 pairs in 2007); BRECON: two probable pairs at Blaen Dyffryn Quarry on 2 June, but both believed to have failed possibly due to scramble bikers; pair bred on the Breconshire side of the R.Wye at Ffordd Fawr and probably raised young; pair made two nest-scrapes and laid eggs at Llangasty but both were depredated by crows; pair laid a late clutch at Talybont Reservoir in early July, but the eggs were depredated; MONTGOMERY: recorded at Dolydd Hafren, Llandinam Gravels and Llyn Coed y Dinas; MEIRIONNYDD: probably bred at a site on the north side of the Dyfi where a juvenile was seen on 23 July; DENBIGH: two adults and two juveniles on the Conwy estuary on 3 July, but breeding site unknown; FLINT: pair bred near Buckley, the juvenile ringed on 6 June.

Earliest and latest dates by county:

	Earliest	*Site*		*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT	11 March	Newport Wetlands		21 Sept.	Llandegfedd Reservoir
E.GLAMORGAN	21 March	Ogmore estuary		20 July	Three locations
CARMARTHEN	**2 March**	**Ro-Fawr**		27 Sept.	Penclacwydd
PEMBROKE	2 April	Panteg		26 June	Skokholm
CEREDIGION	18 April	Teifi est. & RSPB Ynys-hir		**4 Oct.**	**Morfa farm, Llanrhystud**
BRECON	20 April	Llangasty		17 July	Talybont Reservoir
MEIRIONNYDD	24 March	Llyn Tegid		23 July	Dyfi estuary
CAERNARFON				10 Aug.	RSPB Morfa Dinlle
ANGLESEY	11 April	Cemlyn			
DENBIGH	15 April	Acrefair		27 July	RSPB Conwy
FLINT	14 March	Buckley		16 July	Connah's Quay NR

KENTISH PLOVER *Charadrius alexandrinus* CWTIAD CAINT

Rare spring and autumn passage migrant. WBRC: 47+ previous records.

CEREDIGION: female ringed at Ynyslas on 17 April remained until 18th.

DOTTEREL *Charadrius morinellus* HUTAN Y MYNYDD

Uncommon migrant in spring and autumn; nesting confirmed or suspected sporadically. Wales Amber listed.

Spring records: CARMARTHEN: four on Garreg Lwyd, Mynydd Du, on 21 April and five here on 23rd; PEMBROKE: one at West Hook Farm, Marloes, on 5 May; CEREDIGION: two near the summit of Pumlumon on 5 May; CAERNARFON: four near the summit of Glyder Fawr on 28 April; two on Foel Fras on 5 May and at least one here on 7th; ANGLESEY: three at The Range on 30 April and one here on 10-11 May.

Autumn records: MEIRIONNYDD: three on Y Llethr, Rhinogau, on 30 Aug.

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus* COEGYLFINIR

Locally common in coastal counties on spring and autumn passage, scarce inland, small numbers occasionally over-winter. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	**780**	**817**
% of BirdTrack lists	**3%**	**4%**

It can be difficult to distinguish between early or late passage birds and wintering individuals. Spring passage probably began with two at Kidwelly Quay, Carmarthenshire, on 13 March, and there was a late bird at Ynyslas, Ceredigion, on 21 November.

Monthly max. at sites holding 30+ birds at least once during the year:

>30 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT												
Undy foreshore				54	24	1	1	17	5			
Newport Wetlands Reserve				11	11		30	4	2			
Peterstone Wentlooge				40	96		5	5	3			
E.GLAMORGAN												
Kenfig NNR				35	40							
Rhymney Great Wharf				61	93			2	1			
Sker Point area*				20	65			3	2			
GOWER												
Burry Inlet south side				95	46	225	150	90	126			
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd				6	35	10	9	2				
CEREDIGION												
Teifi estuary				45	49	1+						
Ynyslas				57	61						1+	
CAERNARFON												
Bardsey	1	2	2	19	24	2	12	44	18	7	1	1
FLINT												
Connah's Quay NR				11	30							

* includes Rest Bay/Pink Bay & Ffynnon-wen Rocks

Other large counts (30+): GWENT: 40 at Sluice Farm on 18 April; CARMARTHEN: 75 at Pwll on 29 April and 60 here on 4 May; PEMBROKE: 36 on Skomer on 22 April; 36 at Wiseman's Bridge on 25 April; 70 at Newport on 2 May; 50 at the Teifi Marshes on 3 May; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: 45 at the Teifi estuary on

18 April; MEIRIONNYDD: 30 at Ynys Saltings, Dyfi Junction, on 26 April; ANGLESEY: 47 on the Alaw estuary on 22 April; 34 at Carmel Head on 28 April.

Winter records (Dec. to Feb.), all singles: GWENT: Peterstone Gout on 29 Dec.; CAERNARFON: 1-2 intermittently on Bardsey in the first winter period, one of which had been ringed here in late 2016; at least one over-wintered on Bardsey into 2019; ANGLESEY: one at Cemlyn during both winter periods; Malltraeth on 24 March possibly overwintered; Penmon Pool on 19 Nov.

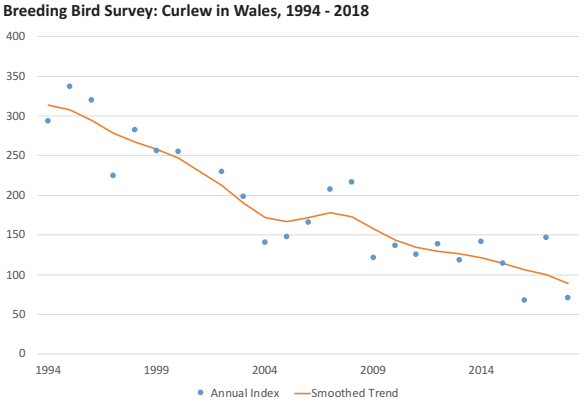
Inland records, all singles unless otherwise stated: E.GLAMORGAN: Rhaslas Pond on 14 May; BRECON: Brechfa Pool on 25 April; Llangasty on 13 May; up to 10 south over WTSWW Y Byddwn reserve, Groesffordd, on 27 July; one over Llangorse on 29 July; one heard over Brecon at 4am on 16 Aug.; MONTGOMERY: Dolydd Hafren on 25 April; Llyn Coed y Dinas on 29 April; DENBIGH: two at Esclusham Mountain, Ruabon Moor, on 22 April.

Ringing: PEMBROKE: one at the Gann estuary on 9 May had been colour-ringed in northwest Spain in May 2011.

CURLEW *Numenius arquata* GYLFINIR

Widespread but declining breeding species in upland Wales and a few lowland sites. Abundant winter visitor mainly to coastal areas. Amber WeBS alert: -37% long-term, the greatest decline of any country in the UK. Wales Red listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	3615	3887
% of BirdTrack lists	18%	18%

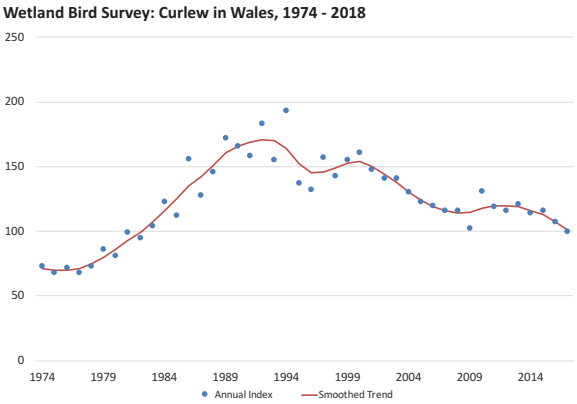


The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales hit its lowest point ever in two of the last three years, and it is now 68% below its 1995 level, when the Curlew had already become a scarce breeding species in many places that it had formerly inhabited. WOS is part of a collaborative initiative, Gylfinir Cymru, that seeks to reverse this decline but in the immediate future there must be a real concern that numbers will fall below the minimum sample size for the BBS.

Breeding season: 20-22 confirmed nests, of which nine probably hatched chicks, and probably/possibly nested at another 17 sites. GWENT: two possible breeding pairs, one at a location where breeding recorded previously; E.GLAMORGAN: display on the Gelligaer Common area, Bargoed, in April-May; 'singing' males in April at Parc Taf Bargoed and at Craig Evan Leyshon Common near Abercynon; pair in suitable habitat at Rhaslas Pond; PEMBROKE: three pairs attempted to breed on Skomer but no young fledged; CEREDIGION: birds in suitable breeding habitat at Cors Caron; BRECON: pairs displayed at fifteen sites. Three territories on Waun Rydd, behaviour of one pair suggested chicks in mid-June. 1-2 pairs

attempted to breed between Llysdinam and Trembyd; MONTGOMERY: a few scattered breeding records e.g. two pairs at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy (one chick fledged); MEIRIONNYDD: three territories on wet rough grassland/moor south of Llyn Trawsfynydd; 4-5 pairs in the Llyn/Mynydd Mynyllod area, of which at least four pairs hatched chicks; probably/possibly bred at Fron Newydd-Corwen, at Bwlch Llandrillo and Llandrillo, near Llangar church, at Hen Dŵr-Berwyn, at Bwlch y Groes-Berwyn and near Foel Fodig-Clawdd Poncen; CAERNARFON: nest with young in the Bryn Llech area of the Migneint; one called on Gwaun Gynfi on 20 May; present at Foel Boeth-Migneint and at Ardda-Trefriw; ANGLESEY: two territories in the Cefni valley, close to RSPB Cors Ddyga; possibly bred at Cors Erddreiniog; DENBIGH: brood near Llyn Aled Isaf, Mynydd Hiraethog, and near Bryneglwys.

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales has started to fall again, having plateauxed in the last decade after falling by 35% since 1990, but these are long-lived birds, so this may give a false impression of breeding success if productivity is low. Red WeBS alert issued in the Burry Inlet SPA (-60%) and amber alert in the Dee estuary SPA (-37%).



Monthly max. at sites holding 500+ birds at least once during the year:

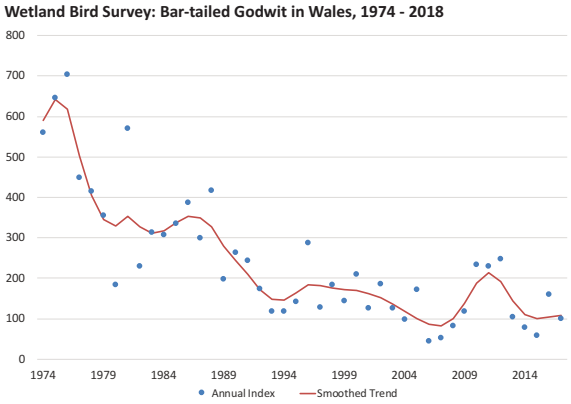
>500 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GOWER												
Burry Inlet south side	250	145	305	105	56	160	236	730	900	940	330	500
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	368	250	202	68	4	700	620	482		154	465	160
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau estuary	361	331	123			105	1086		492	323	352	490
CEREDIGION												
Dyfi estuary	656	688						758	930	539	749	734
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	650	605	307	350	90	537	1725	1182	1858	700	1037	943
ANGLESEY												
Traeth Melynog	43	76		109	2		645	236	146	125	136	171
Beddmanarch-Cymyran	33	268	45						584	31	134	444
FLINT												
Point of Ayr	200	800	420	600	41	70	900	750	800	1000	500	450

Other large counts (500+): FLINT: 1800 near Rhuddlan on 7 Feb.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica* RHOSTOG GYNFFONFRAITH

Passage migrant and winter visitor, more numerous in autumn than spring. Rare away from the coasts but has been recorded in all inland counties. Red WeBS alert: -50% long-term and -51% short-term, although +21% medium term. Wales Red listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	305	295
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%



The Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales shows a sustained decline since the 1970s, although counts were marginally higher in the last two winters than the previous three. A WeBS red alert (-54%) for the long-term and an amber alert (-46%) for the short-term has been issued on the Dee estuary SPA. Only small numbers now occur in most coastal counties. The number of sites holding counts of 50 at least once is declining:

>50 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GOWER												
Burry Inlet south side	20	32	25	20	6	26	1		4	3	220	
Blackpill		2	24	6	1				5	210	280	1
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	26	35	73	23			35	1	9+	13	29	1
ANGLESEY												
Alaw estuary	48	55										
Beddmanarch-Cymyran	48	55	61									18

Other counts of 50+: GOWER: 140 on Upper Loughor estuary on 11 Nov.; PEMBROKE: 158 at Angle Bay on 26 Feb.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa* RHOSTOG GYNFFONDDU

Common spring and autumn passage migrant; numbers are increasing in winter on the Dee estuary, but usually on the English side. Amber WeBS alert: -27% short-term, but +140% for long-term. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	1399	1162
% of BirdTrack lists	6%	5%

The Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales, having shown huge growth in the 1990s, then went into rapid reverse, although counts in the last two years have recovered some of that loss.

Other large counts (50+) not included in the table: GOWER: 92 at Blackpill on 22 Oct.; CARMARTHEN: 51 on Taf estuary in Jan.; PEMBROKE: 90 in Angle Bay on 19 Jan. with a county record 451 here on 12 Dec.; 118 at South Studdock Farm on 14 Jan.; 138 at Llangwm on 22 Jan.; 128 at Paskeston Woods-Upton on 7-8 March; 88 at Pembroke Mill Pond on 9 Sept.; 150 at Castlemartin Corse on 3 Dec.; ANGLESEY: 52 at Llyn Cefni on 13 Sept.; FLINT: 500 at Talacre on 13 Jan. and 230 here on 10 Dec.; 300 near Bagillt on 4 Feb.;

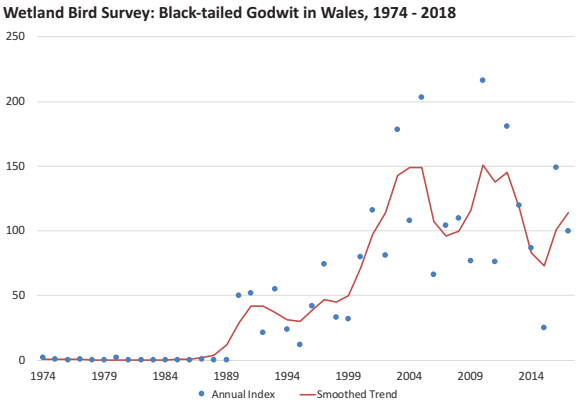
Monthly max. at sites holding 50+ birds at least once during the year:

>50 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT												
Undy foreshore								145	10			
Newport Wetlands Reserve	100	10	85	217	127	42	228	70	169	346	200	500
Peterstone Wentlooge	376	230	8	1	22		2	5	14	15	600	250
GOWER												
Burry Inlet south side	350	170	61	320	150	105	325	327		340	480	340
Upper Loughor estuary	3	42						327		19	140	125
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	441	655	495	829	518	475	454	1022	1135	919	700	493
Gwendraeth estuary	150		120				5	4		50		194
Tywi estuary		240	103							20		
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau estuary	2	63	21				3		3	226	5	201
MEIRIONNYDD/CAERNARFON												
Glaslyn/Dwyryd estuary	45	17	18	9					51	20	14	48
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	70	90	52	1			1	13	18	35	95	122*
ANGLESEY												
RSPB Cors Ddyga				6	18	10		2	6	15	52	34
FLINT												
Point of Ayr			7					34	1000	2200	25	
Flint, estuary										800	1080	18
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	500	30	31	150			4	4	2000	3000	1500	400

* 122 in Bangor harbour on 17 Dec. was the second-highest count recorded for Traeth Lafan and for Caernarfonshire.

at Connah's Quay NR on 5 March and 50 here on 25 Aug.; 550 at Shotwick Fields on 15 April; 85 at Point of Ayr on 20 May; 54 near Rhyl on 12 Aug.

Inland, a series of sightings at Llangorse Lake, BRECON, between 20 March and 5 May peaked at 16 on the sailing club meadow on 14 April.

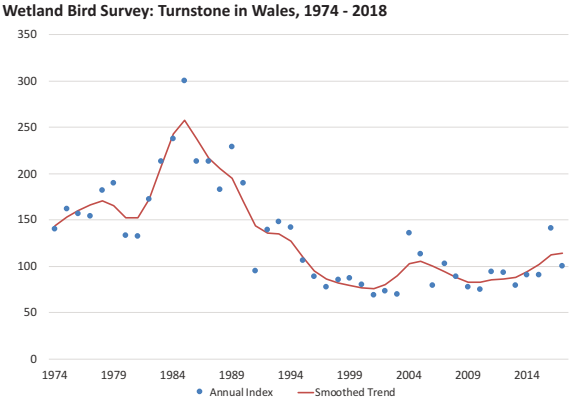


TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres* CWTIAD Y TRAETH

Passage migrant in spring and autumn but most abundant in winter. A few non-breeding birds are present throughout the summer. It is rare inland. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	1082	1084
% of BirdTrack lists	6%	5%

The Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales has been stable for 20 years having fallen dramatically in the late 1980s. Red WeBS alerts have been issued for the long term (-89%) and medium term (-78%) on the Burry Inlet SPA.



Monthly max. at the main sites (holding counts of 50 at least once):

>50 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
E.GLAMORGAN												
Porthcawl seafront	56	4	15	25					1		26	6
Rest Bay & Sker Point	40	55	45	44	7		23	41	17	53	29	49
GOWER												
Burry Inlet south side	65	60								60	200	27
Blackpill				6					106	12		
Mumbles	40	10	23	10				40	33	60	60	114
CARMARTHEN												
Burry Port/Pembrey	12		61		1		1	15	143	114		
CAERNARFON												
Bardsey	25	12	22	24	12	8	23	145	54	56	16	24
Foryd	90	130	56	100				42	110	41	90	110
Traeth Lafan	92	77	83	17			2	10	45	54	118	104
Lower Conwy estuary	181	78	75	36						4		27
Rhos Point	55	4		40				1	28	103	70	107
ANGLESEY												
Beddmanarch-Cymyran	80	35	14						14	4	17	9
DENBIGH												
Rhos-on-Sea		4	28	31						103		
Llanddulas		61	39						48	48	104	100
Kinmel Bay	100+			195+	1+			220	180	134		

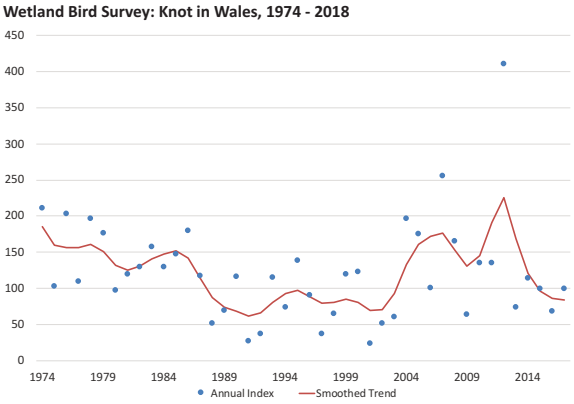
Other counts of 50+: CAERNARFON: 65 at Llandudno on 4 Jan.

KNOT *Calidris canutus* PIBYDD YR ABER

Common winter visitor to some of the major estuaries, but relatively scarce elsewhere, also a passage migrant in spring and autumn. Red WeBS alert: -50% for medium term and -55% for short term. Rare inland. Wales Red listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	210	262
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	1%

The Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales fluctuates but has generally returned to its 1990s level following an increase earlier this century. A red WeBS alert (-52%) for the medium term and amber alerts for the short (-40%) and long (-33%) terms have been issued for the Burry Inlet SPA, but it remains an important wintering area in a Welsh context. Amber alerts have been issued for the short (-40%), medium (-31%) and long (-40%) term on the Dee estuary SPA.



Monthly max. at sites holding 300+ at least once:

>300 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GOWER												
Burry Inlet south side	5805	1560	2200	150							300	4800
Blackpill									106		490	
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	21	8	300	100	8	5	9	151	611	377	585	1
Pembrey Harbour		2000	4	50				6			750	2750
ANGLESEY												
Traeth Melynog	1110	120						8				624
FLINT												
Point of Ayr	600			2				1+		1000		

Other counts of 300+: E.GLAMORGAN: 300 at Rhymney Great Wharf on 25 Dec.; ANGLESEY: *c*.600 at the Braint estuary on 10 Jan. and *c*.800 here on 14th; 446 in Beddmanarch Bay on 27 Feb.; FLINT: 800 at Ffynnongroyw on 11 Nov.

RUFF *Calidris pugnax* PIBYDD TORCHOG

Fairly common passage migrant in small numbers, principally in autumn. Occasionally winters. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	358	185
% of BirdTrack lists	2%	<1%

Monthly max from sites recording 10+ birds at least once:

>10 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT												
Newport Wetlands Goldcliff	1	1	1	4	5		12	3	7			
ANGLESEY												
RSPB Cors Ddyga				10	1						1	

Approximate monthly totals (including those listed above):

Monthly totals	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*June*	*July*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT	1	1	1	4	5		12	3	10			
E.GLAMORGAN			8		1			1	1	1		
GOWER									1			
CARMARTHEN			2				2	2	5	1		1
PEMBROKE								1	4	1		
CEREDIGION	1						4	1	5			
BRECON								2				
MEIRIONNYDD								1				
CAERNARFON			1				2	1		1		
ANGLESEY				11	1	3		2	8		1	
DENBIGH				1			1					
FLINT				8+			1		4+	1-2		

CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea* PIBYDD CAMBIG

Uncommon passage migrant to coastal areas, principally in autumn, relatively numerous in some years. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	**100**	**143**
% of BirdTrack lists	**<1%**	**<1%**

Spring passage, singles unless otherwise stated: GWENT: two at Newport Wetlands Reserve on 21 April, then 1-2 on various dates throughout the spring; CARMARTHEN: Penclacwydd on 15 June; PEMBROKE: Gann estuary on 29-30 May; CEREDIGION: Ynyslas on 30-31 May; ANGLESEY: Alaw estuary on 19, 26 and 27 May; two at Traeth Dulas on 2 June.

Autumn passage, singles unless otherwise stated: GWENT: several in July and Aug., incl. one south over Llandegfedd Res. on 26 July. Records from Newport Wetlands Reserve include four on 28 July, four on 14 and 16 Sept., and a 1CY on 19 Oct.; GOWER: Port Eynon Pt. on 9 Aug.; 1CY near West Cross on 20 Oct.; CARMARTHEN: two 1CY at Kidwelly Quay on 17 Sept., singles here on 26 and 30 Sept. and two on 3-5 Oct.; PEMBROKE: Gann estuary on 10 and 29 Sept.; Little Milford on 10 Sept.; CEREDIGION: Ynyslas on 17 Aug., 11 Sept. and 21 Sept.; MEIRIONNYDD: three on the Broadwater on 5 Aug.; CAERNARFON: Morfa Madryn on 8 Sept.; three at Morfa Aber on 22 Sept.; ANGLESEY: Cemlyn on 3 and 5 July; DENBIGH: RSPB Conwy on 7 Aug.; FLINT: 11 records of 1-2 birds; three at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 12 Aug.; three at Connah's Quay NR on 8 Oct.

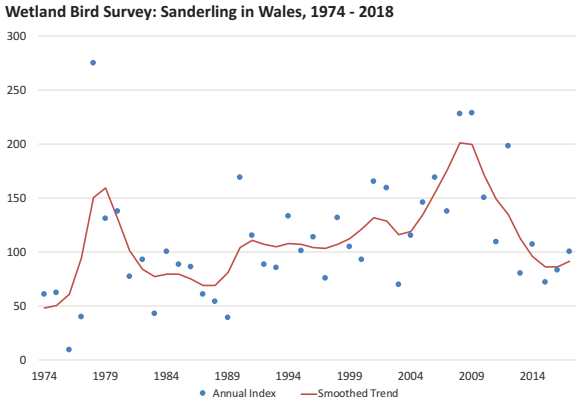
Ringing: CARMARTHEN: 1CY at Kidwelly Quay on 17 Sept. had been colour-ringed on the Vistula estuary, Gdansk Bay, Poland, on 4 Sept.

SANDERLING *Calidris alba* PIBYDD Y TYWOD

Winter visitor, locally common on sandy beaches in Flint, Carmarthen and Glamorgan. A spring and autumn migrant on the coast. Scarce inland. Amber WeBS alerts: -42% for short-term and -45% for medium term. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	296	360
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	2%

Non-breeding: the fall during the current decade may have halted, the Wetland Bird Survey index is now similar to the level in the 1980s and 1990s.



Monthly max. at sites holding 50+ birds at least once during the year:

>50 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
E.GLAMORGAN												
Newton Pt.	79	1	p							30	40	19
Sker Pt.	80	280	200	200	39		13	3	20+	p	2	
Sker Beach/Kenfig Sands	112	11	150	167					122	209	32	17
GOWER												
Burry Inlet south side	200	45	85					55		60	100	30
Oxwich	23	27	40	165							13	40
Blackpill	16	22		57					2		130	
Crymlyn Burrows		250		2	5		2	249	300	365	400	165
Aberavon	70	260						3			106	6
Margam Sands	146	620	400					200		210	406	100
CARMARTHEN												
Burry Port/Pembrey		20	8	250	137	47	100	413	84	17	500	
Cefn Sidan	641	160	792			8				381	83	160
CEREDIGION												
Teifi estuary	1	1	2	1	75	5	1	39	3			
MEIRIONNYDD/CAERNARFON												
Glaslyn/Dwyryd estuary	52	130			1							71
CAERNARFON												
Dwyfor estuary			2	10		50						
Lower Conwy estuary	3		65									60
FLINT												
Gronant			80+	140+								115+

Other flocks of 50+: E.GLAMORGAN: 50 at Sandy Bay/Trecco Bay on 28 Jan. and 54 here on 30th; GOWER: 85 at Burry Holms on 30 March; 55 at Llangennith on 21 Aug.; 100 at Salthouse Pt. on 3 Nov.; CARMARTHEN: 637 at Pendine on 1 Nov.; PEMBROKE: 75 at Poppit on 29 May; 50 at Angle Bay on 12

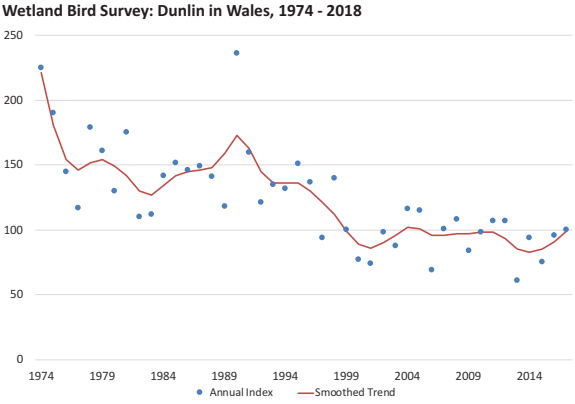
Aug.; MEIRIONNYDD: 330 at Morfa Harlech on 29 May is a county record; 50 at Morfa Dyffryn on 7 Sept.; CAERNARFON: 60 at Traeth Crugan on 5 April; DENBIGH: 200+ at Horton's Nose on 11 Jan.; 63 at Kinmel Bay on 14 Oct.; FLINT: 80+ at Point of Ayr on 23 Oct.

Inland records: GWENT: two at Llandegfedd Res. in Aug.; E.GLAMORGAN: singles at Rhaslas Pond on 18 April and 3 Aug.

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina* PIBYDD Y MAWN

Scarce and local breeder, restricted to a few blanket bogs with scattered pools. An abundant passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber WeBS alert: -44% long-term, the highest of any UK country. Wales Red listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	1843	1915
% of BirdTrack lists	9%	9%



Breeding season/habitat: BRECON: two probable Dunlin were reported in the Brecon Beacons in May, an area with no breeding records for some years; pair and a single on Abergwesyn Common in early June, close to bogs where they have traditionally bred, but in recent years have dried out significantly; single

Monthly max. at sites holding 1000+ birds at least once during the year:

>1000 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT												
Mathern	5000	200	22							174	30	32
Undy foreshore	2000	1700	220	52		6		359	260	160	800	2000
Newport Wetlands	3000	400	500	165	570	119	350	350	200	200	500	3000
Peterstone Wentlooge	2500	3000	750	18	30	29	12	80	120	400	3000	2000
E.GLAMORGAN												
Rhymney estuary	2000		90					6			800	550
Rhymney Great Wharf					7	16		10		2	2000+	
GOWER												
Burry Inlet south side	4910	4035	1290	90	50		60	700	270	280	2500	4800
CARMARTHEN												
Gwendraeth estuary	200	150	39	12			13	35	38	50	1000	198
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau estuary	1955	3618	128			77	9		182	54	1355	3881
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	1300	2756	700	9	8	7		70	504	130	2172	2195
ANGLESEY												
Beddmanarch-Cymyran	800	1320	643						56	5	172	247
FLINT												
Point of Ayr	4000	1500		9	7	15	4	25	300	500	2000	450
Flint estuary		75	20							42	1010	582
Connah's Quay NR			3000							500	2000	
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	600	5000	1000					80	100	26	2000	500

in a regular territory in the Black Mountains on 18 June and 3 July; CAERNARFON: one at Llyn Eigiau on 14 April.

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales has been more or less stable this century, following a decline in the 1990s and just one-third of its mid-1970s baseline. This decline is greater than that recorded in Scotland or England, but similar to Northern Ireland, suggesting west/east differences. Amber WeBS alerts issued for short (-26%) and long (-41%) term declines in the Burry Inlet SPA.

Flocks of 1000+ not included in the table: PEMBROKE: 1000 at Angle Bay on 1 Jan.; 1000 at Landshipping on 10 Jan.; 1000 at Sprinkle Pill on 25 Jan.

PURPLE SANDPIPER *Calidris maritima* PIBYDD DU

Localised winter visitor in small numbers to rocky shorelines. Red WeBS alerts: -51% medium term and amber alert (-42%) for short-term, but long-term is +96%. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	79	112
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

This species appears to be declining in Wales, with counts at most of the regular sites down in recent years.

Monthly max. at sites holding 10+ birds at least once during the year:

>10 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
E.GLAMORGAN												
Porthcawl seafront		12	5	3							1	19
Rest Bay & Sker	3	19	17								6	2
Sker Point area	11	2	8	22	17						2	
PEMBROKE												
Skomer			6	40				4		1	5	
CEREDIGION												
Aberystwyth	10	9	6	6	2					1	5	8
CAERNARFON												
Bardsey	4	3	29	88	20		1	1	16	10	4	28
ANGLESEY												
Trearddur Bay	13	20										
Cemlyn					1							12

A single bird roosting with Turnstones at Burry Port Harbour, CARMARTHEN, on 6 March was the first site record since 2006.

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER *Calidris bairdii* PIBYDD BAIRD

Rare vagrant from North America. BBRC: 19 previous records.

PEMBROKE: one on the Gann estuary on 11-12 June and two here on 13-16 Sept.

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta* PIBYDD BACH

Uncommon passage migrant in small numbers to coastal areas, principally in autumn and has occasionally wintered. It is rare inland. Wales Green listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	86	68
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Spring passage, all singles unless otherwise stated: GWENT: Newport Wetlands Reserve Goldcliff on 17 and 19 June; E.GLAMORGAN: Rhaslas Pond on 15 May; CEREDIGION: Ynyslas on 17 May; ANGLESEY: Alaw estuary on 26 May.

Autumn passage, all singles unless otherwise stated: GWENT: all records were from Newport Wetlands Reserve Goldcliff: adult on 12-15 July, two 1CY on 15 Aug., three on 30 Sept. and 20-21 Oct, with 1-2 regular to 10 Nov. and the last one on 1 Dec.; GOWER: 1CY at Castell-du, Upper Loughor estuary, on 26 Aug.; CARMARTHEN: Penclacwydd on 25 Sept.; Kidwelly Quay on 4-5 Nov.; PEMBROKE: two at Nevern estuary on 14 Sept., one remaining until 1 Oct.; MEIRIONNYDD: three at Ynys Saltings, Dyfi Junction, on 31 July and two here on 1 Sept.; Aberdysynni on 14 Aug.; CAERNARFON: Foryd on 8 Sept.; DENBIGH: RSPB Conwy on 25 Sept.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER *Calidris subruficollis* PIBYDD BRONLLWYD

Rare vagrant from North America. WBRC: 65 previous records.

PEMBROKE: three on Dale Airfield on 22-24 Sept.; one on Skokholm on 27 Sept.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER *Calidris melanotos* PIBYDD CAIN

Scarce visitor from North America. WBRC: 144 previous records.

Singles at CARMARTHEN: Penclacwydd on 14-16 Sept., the fourth consecutive year the species has been recorded in the county; ANGLESEY: RSPB Cors Ddyga on 29 Sept.

WOODCOCK *Scolopax rusticola* CYFFYLOG

Regular breeder in small numbers in all counties except Pembroke and Anglesey. It is widespread and common/abundant in winter. Wales Red listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	153	236
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	1%

The breeding status of this species in Wales remains poorly understood, but records of breeding or possible breeding are getting fewer. All records suggesting possible breeding are given: GWENT: roding at Beacon Hill on 7 June; MONTGOMERY: breeding pair at Llanfair Caereinion; CAERNARFON: roding below Hafna mine, Gwydyr Forest, on 12 June.

Non-breeding max. passage and wintering counts listed below (all other records were of singles):

First winter period. Cold weather in early March produced an influx in some areas. GWENT: four in Bourne Wood, Dingestow, in Jan.; E.GLAMORGAN: nine at Dunraven Park (Slade Wood) on 4 March; five at Cwm Alun, Ewenny, on 5 March; CARMARTHEN: four at Penclacwydd in Feb.; PEMBROKE: 16 at Campshill and 16 at Dinaston on 4 Jan.; 12 at Jeffreyston, six at Loveston and six near St. Florence on 5 Jan.; seven at

Boncath on 23 Jan.; 10 at Crymych Woods on 16 Feb.; CEREDIGION: unusual 'urban' record in Chalybeate Street, Aberystwyth, on 9 March; BRECON: up to four at The Cwm between 26 Feb. and 18 March; MEIRIONNYDD: three at Farchynys on 23 March; CAERNARFON: nine at Tal-y-cafn on 2 Jan. and 19 here on 5 March; nine at Ty'n-y-parc, Rhiw, on 1 March; five on Bardsey on 3 March; ANGLESEY: 10 at Llyn Cefni on 15 Jan.; DENBIGH: seven near Pentrefoelas on 10 March.

Second winter period. GWENT: six near Llanarth on 5 Nov.; CARMARTHEN: four at Llangunnor on 28 Dec.; CAERNARFON: six on Bardsey on 29 Oct.; ANGLESEY: 10 at Llanddyfnan on 18 Oct.; seven at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 21 Nov.; DENBIGH: three near Llangollen on 3 Nov.; FLINT: two at Rhydymwyn on 9 Nov.

JACK SNIPE *Lymnocryptes minimus* GIACH FACH

Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	55	124
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Approximate county totals where available:

Monthly totals	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*		*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
E.GLAMORGAN		7	9				1	1	3
GOWER	5	3	5				4+	1+	1+
CARMARTHEN	3	2	1				7		5
PEMBROKE	3	8	6	1			6	5	1
BRECON	2	5	5	1			1	7	8
MONTGOMERY			3						1
MEIRIONNYDD	3		4					1	
CAERNARFON	9	4	7	3			3		2
ANGLESEY	23+	4+						3	

Other county maxima or total number of records: GWENT: 12 records in the first winter period, max. four at Sudbrook in early March, and the last record on 5 May; eight singles in the second winter period; CARMARTHEN: five at New House Farm, Laugharne, on 8 Dec.; CEREDIGION: small numbers in both winter periods; up to six at RSPB Ynys-hir in late Sept. and Oct.; good numbers at Ynys Tachwedd fields in Nov. and Dec.; BRECON: one flushed from Waun Fach, the highest peak in the Black Mountains, on 13 March; five at Trecastle in Dec.; RADNOR: records from 16 sites, max. 10 at Rhiw Bottom in Dec.; CAERNARFON: five at Tal-y-cafn on 5 March and two here on 6th; recorded until 25 April on Bardsey; ANGLESEY: six at Traeth Dulas on 1 Jan.; 10 at Red Wharf Bay on 24 Jan.; five at RSPB Valley Wetlands in Feb.; DENBIGH: seven records of singles, the last of the first winter period at RSPB Conwy on 17 March and the first of autumn here on 8 Oct.; FLINT: 36 records, most from Connah's Quay NR with counts of up to five (on 3 Jan.); the last of the first winter period was near Gronant on 7 March and the first 'autumn' record was at Talacre on 5 Nov.

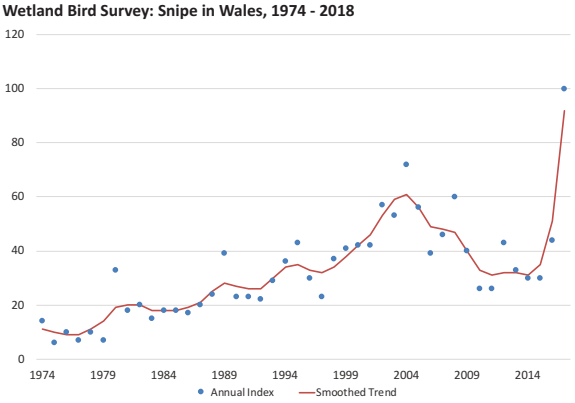
Ringing: BRECON: a bird caught at Trecastle in December was spending its third successive winter here, in the same 30 x 30 metre section of an extensive bog.

SNIPE *Gallinago gallinago* GIACH GYFFREDIN

Widespread breeding bird, nesting in all counties but in small and declining numbers. Substantial numbers in winter. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	1256	1723
% of BirdTrack lists	5%	8%

Breeding season: 55 chipping/drumming males at 13 sites, incl. an impressive 33 at Morfa Mawddach, Meirionnydd, where Natural Resources Wales has undertaken management; also present at 12 other sites containing suitable habitat: GWENT: drumming on Mynydd Llangatwg on 5 May; chipping on Bal Mawr ffridd on 2 June; CEREDIGION: present at RSPB Ynys-hir, Cors Fochno,



Snipe (Jonathan Bull)

Cors Caron, Nant y Moch and at Camddwr pool; BRECON: eight territories in the west of the county (upper Llia/Crai/Epynt); drumming bird at Storey Arms in May; small bogs on RSPB Carngafallt held three 'chipping' birds on 26 May, with two birds on one bog here on 11 June; two near Grwyne Fawr Reservoir on 3 July may also have bred; MEIRIONNYDD: one at Llyn Caer Euni on 20 April; many chipping on Ynys Saltings and Penmaen Isa saltings, Dyfi Junction, on 2 May; 33 chipping/drumming males on Morfa Mawddach; CAERNARFON: one drumming south of Bwlch Mawr, near Gyrn Goch, on 19 May; one drumming at Llyn Sarnau on 12 June; present SE of Llyn Conwy on the Migneint on 14 April, Llyn Lockwood on 21 May, Bryn Llech on the Migneint on 2 July and Llynnau Mymbyr on 15 July; DENBIGH: chipping male on Ruabon Mountain on 22 April; one present at another site.

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index showed a huge and inexplicable increase in 2017/18 to its highest ever level, surprising given the decline during the previous decade.

Monthly max. at sites with 40+ birds at least once during the year:

>40 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*		*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT										
Newport Wetlands Reserve	70	16	12	4		6	9	12	15	35
Peterstone Wentlooge	62	9	2			4		4	25	26
E.GLAMORGAN										
Hendre Lake	60	19	11	1						6
GOWER										
Burry Inlet south side	10	4	40	1				20	4	50
CARMARTHEN										
Penclacwydd	75	20	10	6		4	4	2	19	7
Pembrey Burrows	134	107					7		45	88
Gwendraeth	23	9				1	10	5	45	120
PEMBROKE										
Castlemartin Corse	479		200							
Cleddau estuary	248	134	44						71	81
BRECON										
Mynydd Illtyd	58	11	28			1	10	63	30	81
Llangorse Lake	30	6	6	7		2	1	40	80	9
Y Gors	20	25	12	2					18	40
MEIRIONNYDD/CAERNARFON										
Glaslyn/Dwyryd estuary	40	10				5		9	58	3
CAERNARFON										
Foryd	42	30	8	10				10	50	8
RSPB Morfa Dinlle	59	80	38	9		1	9	41	130	11
Traeth Lafan	55	47	1	1			2	10	25	7
ANGLESEY										
RSPB Cors Ddyga	122	226	45	22	5	1		1	400	96
RSPB Valley Wetlands	227	127	68	11			1	6	4	26
Llyn Coron	51	25	10	5						3
Red Wharf Bay	84									110
DENBIGH										
RSPB Conwy	106	87	45	5		4	13	15	37	50+
FLINT										
Connah's Quay NR	71	20	25				2	17	78	83

Other counts of 40+: GWENT: 40 at Llanbadoc on 26 Dec.; GOWER: 41 at Mynydd Garn-goch on 21 Nov.; 48 at Cwm Ivy on 28 Dec.; PEMBROKE: 100 at Marloes Mere on 2 Jan.; 100 at Gupton Farm on 15 Jan.; 150 at Goodwick Moor on 31 Jan.; 150 at Landshipping on 2 March; CARMARTHEN: *c*.50 along the R.Tywi at Carmarthen on 20 Nov.; CEREDIGION: up to 90 at Cors Caron in both winter periods; up to 100 in a field near Llangwyryfon in Nov.; BRECON: 51 on Llandefalle Hill on 19 Dec.; RADNOR: 110 at Rhosgoch Bog in Oct.; 130 at Rhiw Bottom in Dec.; MEIRIONNYDD: 40+ flushed by spring tides at Ynys Saltings, Dyfi Junction, in Jan. and Feb.; CAERNARFON: 44 at Pontllyfni on 4 Feb.; ANGLESEY: 56 at Bryn Cefni, Llangefni, on 28 Feb.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE *Phalaropus lobatus* LLYDANDROED GYDDFGOCH

Rare passage migrant. WBRC: 59 previous records.

CEREDIGION: one at RSPB Ynys-hir on 24-29 Sept. was only the fifth county record, the last in 2002.

GREY PHALAROPE *Phalaropus fulicarius* LLYDANDROED LLWYD

Uncommon and irregular passage migrant, predominantly to coastal areas during September-October.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	19	69
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

A severe Atlantic depression that hit the western approaches of Britain and Ireland overnight on 20 and 21 Sept produced 32 records from 20 sites. Singles unless otherwise stated: GWENT: Newport Wetlands Reserve Goldcliff on 21 Sept., others on 26th and 13 Nov.; Llandegfedd Res. on 21-23 Sept.; Llanvihangel Gobion on 9-10 Dec.; E.GLAMORGAN: two at Ogmore estuary on 21 Sept. and another here on 24 Sept.; four (ad and 3 1CY) at Lisvane Res. on 21 Sept., three still present on 22nd and one remaining until 28th; Lavernock Pt. on 21 Sept.; East Aberthaw on 22 Sept.; GOWER: Penclawdd lower saltmarsh on 21 Sept.; CARMARTHEN: Pembrey Harbour on 25 Sept. and two here on 26th; Kidwelly Quay on 26 and 29 Sept.; PEMBROKE: two off Strumble Head on 21 Sept. and one here on 23rd; Skomer on 21 Sept. and two here on 15 Oct.; Skokholm on 17 Oct.; CEREDIGION: RSPB Ynys-hir on 21-23 Sept.; south beach, Aberystwyth, on 22 Sept.; two at Llanrhystud on 22 Sept. and one here on 23rd; north off Ynyslas on 2 Oct.; RADNOR: Claerwen Res. on 19 Sept.; MEIRIONNYDD: Llyfnant outflow, Dyfi junction, on 19 and 24 Sept.; two at Pennal, Dyfi estuary, on 23 Sept.; Tonfanau on 22 Sept. and presumed same bird at the mouth of Aberdysynni on 24-25 Sept.; MEIRIONNYDD/CAERNARFON: two at Porthmadog Cob on 22 Sept.; CAERNARFON: two in Pwllheli harbour on 20 Sept., one remaining until 3 Oct.; Bardsey on 21 Sept.; Foryd on 14 Oct.

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos* PIBYDD Y DORLAN

Summer visitor that breeds in all counties except Pembroke, albeit sporadically in Anglesey and Flintshire. Very small numbers over-winter. Wales Red listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	1053	855
% of BirdTrack lists	4%	3%

First winter period, all singles unless otherwise stated: GWENT: Pant-y-Goitre on 25 Feb.; lower Wye valley on 20 March; E.GLAMORGAN: Ogmore estuary and Portobello in Jan.; R.Rhymney at Lamby Way on

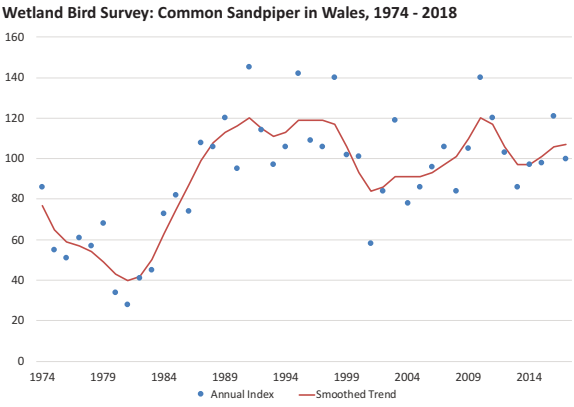
6 Jan.; Merthyr Mawr fields on 17 and 31 Jan. and 7 March; East Aberthaw in Feb.; Ploran Mawr, Ogmore, on 7 Feb.; Forest Farm on 4 March; GOWER: at Penclawdd and Afan estuary from Jan. to 3 Feb., but three at the latter site on 19 Jan.; PEMBROKE: 2-3 on the Cleddau estuary; CEREDIGION: on the Teifi and Dyfi estuaries; CAERNARFON: Aber Ogwen on 21-22 Jan.; Pwllheli harbour on 26 Feb.; CAERNARFON/DENBIGH: Tal-y-cafn on 3 Jan. and 15 Feb.; ANGLESEY: overwintered at Church Island; Cemlyn on 11 March; FLINT: several records in Jan. and Feb., incl. five at Connah's Quay NR on 4 Jan.

Early spring passage can be difficult to distinguish from wintering birds, but several counties reported first records on 4 April. Max. counts: GWENT: six at Sluice Farm on 18 April; E.GLAMORGAN: seven at Cardiff Bay in April; 10 at Kenfig NNR on 27 April; nine at Rhaslas Pond in May; PEMBROKE: 13 at Radford Pill on 6 April; 15 at Nevern estuary on 28 April; CARMARTHEN: five at Kidwelly Quay on 30 April; MEIRIONNYDD: four on Llyn Tegid on 15 April; CAERNARFON: five on Bardsey on 21 and 28 April; DENBIGH: 15 near Kinmel Bay on 18 April; FLINT: seven at Rhyl Brickfields Pond LNR on 18 April.

Summary of breeding season records: GWENT: possibly bred at Llanwenarth; GOWER: 1-2 pairs bred; CEREDIGION: three sites; BRECON: 16 along the R.Usk between Llansantffraed and Pencelli on 4 May, a considerable increase over recent years. Nine along the same stretch on 26 June included at least one large chick. Birds appeared to be absent from reservoirs in the west of the county; MEIRIONNYDD: 29+ pairs at 15 sites; CAERNARFON: 23 pairs at 18 sites; DENBIGH: bred at Llyn Aled Isaf, and probably near Moelfryn-Serw in the Migneint.

Post-breeding and autumn passage max. counts: GWENT: seven at Peterstone Gout/Pill on 13 Aug.; E.GLAMORGAN: 10 at the Ogmore estuary in July with nine at Portobello in Aug.; GOWER: 17 at Eglwys Nunydd Res. on 29 June; 11 at Castell-du, Upper Loughor estuary, on 18 Aug.; 17 at Whiteford saltmarsh on 27 Sept.; CARMARTHEN: seven at Kidwelly Quay on 30 June, eight here on 15 July and 13 on 29th; PEMBROKE: nine at Carew Mill on 19 July; 25 on the Cleddau estuary in July and six here in Oct.; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: 15 at Teifi estuary on 18 July; CEREDIGION: 15 at Aberystwyth on 30 June and 11 here on 2 July; 19 at Llanrhystud on 10 July; BRECON: four at Pentwyn Res. on 3 Aug.; MEIRIONNYDD: 21 at Pen-y-bryn, Mawddach estuary, on 20 July; CAERNARFON: eight on Bardsey on 9 July and six here on 6 Aug.; six at Felinheli on 30 June and 1 July; FLINT: 10 near Rhuddlan on 10 Sept.

Second winter period, all singles unless otherwise stated: GWENT: lower Wye valley and at Gobion on 12 and 31 Dec.; E.GLAMORGAN: two on the Ogmore estuary in Nov. and one in Dec.; one at Portobello in Nov. and Dec.; one at Llwyn-onn Res. in Nov.; Merthyr Mawr Fields on 15 Nov.; Birdies Lane bridge, Fairwater, on 26 Nov.; GOWER: Penclawdd, Wernffrwd, Loughor estuary and Eglwys Nunydd Res.; PEMBROKE: Little Milford on 1 and 29 Nov.; Nevern estuary on 8, 11 and 23 Nov.; two at St. Dogmaels on 18 Nov.; CEREDIGION: on the Teifi and Dyfi estuary, incl. two on the Teifi on 18 Nov.; MEIRIONNYDD: Ynys Saltings, Dyfi Junction, on 9 Nov.; CAERNARFON: Pwllheli on 5 Nov.; ANGLESEY: Church Island from 18 Nov. to the year end; RSPB Cors Ddyga on 19 Nov.; Beddmanarch Bay on 12 Dec.



Numbers recorded by the Wetland Bird Survey (shown on the previous page) have been stable for over 25 years, following a substantial increase in the 1980s.

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus* PIBYDD GWYRDD

Regular passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers. Amber WeBS alerts: -48% long-term and -30% medium term, but short-term increase is 93%. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	156	148
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Monthly max. counts from R. Usk, GWENT (1), R.Ely, E.GLAMORGAN (2) and Burry Inlet, GOWER:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Llanfihangel Gobion/The Bryn[1]	1	3	3			1	2	2	1	1	15	5
Pendoylan/Peterstone[2]	5	6	6	2		2	7	9	20	1	7	3
Burry Inlet south side	1	1	4				5	10	1	3	6	2

Elsewhere, first winter period. All singles unless otherwise stated: E.GLAMORGAN: Merthyr Mawr fields on 7 March; CARMARTHEN: Kidwelly Marsh on 10 Jan.; Commissioners' Bridge on 1 Feb.; CEREDIGION: two on the Dyfi, mainly at Glandyfi or RSPB Ynys-hir; three at Cors Caron in Feb.; BRECON: Camlais Brook on 27 Jan. and 24 March; MONTGOMERY: Dolydd Hafren from Jan. to 8 April, max. four in Jan.; MEIRIONNYDD: Dwyryd estuary/Penrhyndeudraeth WTW from 27 Jan. to 30 March; Ynys Saltings, Dyfi Junction, on several dates in Jan. incl. two on 30-31 Jan.; CAERNARFON: Ty'n-y-parc, Rhiw, on 1 March; RSPB Morfa Dinlle on 19 March; ANGLESEY: 1-2 at Llanfachraeth; DENBIGH: 1-2 at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari; FLINT: several records.

Counts of 4+ birds on autumn passage: E. GLAMORGAN: four at E.Aberthaw Quarry Pool on 11 Aug.; ANGLESEY: five on Llyn Cefni on 29 Aug. and 4 Sept.; four at Llyn Frogwy on 3 Sept.; four on the Alaw estuary on 1 Sept.; FLINT: four at Shotton Paper Mill on 11 Sept.

In the second winter period (singles unless otherwise stated): GWENT: Newport Wetlands Reserve Goldcliff in Nov.; E.GLAMORGAN: Ogmore estuary on 9 Nov.; CARMARTHEN: R.Tywi at Carmarthen on 20 Nov.; CEREDIGION: two on the Dyfi estuary (also into MEIRIONNYDD); BRECON: Camlais Brook on 7 Nov.; MONTGOMERY: Dolydd Hafren in July-Dec.; ANGLESEY: Llyn Llygeirian on 25 Nov.; Llanfachraeth on 2 Dec.; DENBIGH: near Rhuthun on 30 Dec.

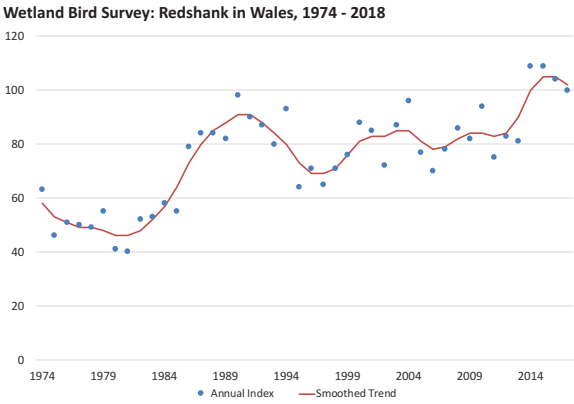
REDSHANK *Tringa totanus* PIBYDD COESGOCH

Scarce and declining breeding species, confined chiefly to salt-marshes but with a few pairs inland. Abundant wintering population. Wales Red listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	3097	3108
% of BirdTrack lists	15%	15%

Breeding season: 69-71 territories at nine sites, and possibly bred at a further three sites: GWENT: at least three broods, with up to seven fledglings, at Newport Wetlands Reserve Goldcliff; displaying bird at West Usk Lighthouse on 21 May; CEREDIGION: 28 pairs bred at RSPB Ynys-hir (*cf*. 34 pairs in 2017); present at Cors Caron in April and May, also at Aberleri, Glandwr and the edge of Cors Fochno; BRECON: pair at Llangasty on 2-3 and 10 June; MEIRIONNYDD: 1-2 territories at

Ynys, Dwyryd saltings, on 22 May; one territory on Mochras saltmarsh; min. four pairs on Ynys Saltings, Dyfi Junction, were flooded out by 28 April but at least three relaid and behaviour indicated chicks present for all three on 26 May and 25 June; CAERNARFON: pair at RSPB Morfa Dinlle; pair hatched chicks at Morfa Madryn; four at Borth-y-gest on 7 April thought to be holding territory; FLINT: 29 pairs at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands.



Non-breeding: in contrast to its declining breeding status, the Wetland

Monthly max. at sites holding 300+ birds at least once during the year:

>300 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT												
Newport Wetlands Reserve	1500	77	124	86	28	215	173	16	37	36	82	86
Peterstone Wentlooge	345	215	350	120	3	4	20	150	180	250	190	262
Ebbwmouth roost	180	300	155	45				80				80
E.GLAMORGAN												
Rhymney estuary	800	1	200+	600				300			800	300
GOWER												
Burry Inlet south side	500	100	205	300			92	180	161	215	150	120
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	102	151	306	649	7	18	124	328	524	35	48	42
Gwendraeth estuary	40	12	305	3		84	230	270	150			
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau estuary	571	448	421			9	301		217	544	654	865
CEREDIGION												
Dyfi estuary	303	220	98	95	62	56	93	112	148	322	320	199
CAERNARFON												
Foryd	180	520	170	144			40	80	120	240	270	250
Traeth Lafan	742	834	388	55	4	4	25	207	2500	3000	1183	1035
ANGLESEY												
Beddmanarch-Cymyran	96	180	112						35	19	289	457
Malltraeth Cob & estuary	244		36	6					84	153	33	379
DENBIGH												
RSPB Conwy	380+	643	380+	307		5	220	751	665	316	500+	408
FLINT												
Point of Ayr	150	150	17	40	6		34	70	200	500	300	300
Mostyn				250			240	980	1345	334	51	57
Flint, estuary	75	170	60							945	218	
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	500	100	2000	400			120	1200	1000	500	670	299
Connah's Quay NR		800			150		1200	6000		1400	900	

Bird Survey index for Wales had been increasing, although shows signs of levelling out.

Other counts of 300+ not included in the table on the previous page: ANGLESEY: 330 at Valley on 21 Jan.; FLINT: 700 at White Sands on 11 April.

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola* PIBYDD Y GRAEAN

Scarce passage migrant principally in the autumn but with a scattering of spring records.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	90	58
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

All records (single birds unless otherwise stated): E.GLAMORGAN: two 1CY at Watermill flood, Ogmore, on 31 Aug. and 1 Sept.; PEMBROKE: Skokholm on 26 July; Marloes Mere on 12 Aug.; CEREDIGION: RSPB Ynys-hir on 4 July; ANGLESEY: RSPB Cors Ddyga on 5 and 21-23 May; Llyn Frogwy on 28 Aug. and (presumed same) at Llyn Cefni on 3 Sept.; DENBIGH: RSPB Conwy on 8-22 Aug.

SPOTTED REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus* PIBYDD COESGOCH MANNOG

Uncommon but regular passage migrant to coastal counties chiefly in autumn. Small numbers over-winter on the Burry Inlet, Dee and Cleddau estuaries. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	478	322
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	<1%

A fairly typical spread of records, but the size of wintering flocks in Wales is falling, as elsewhere, with numbers lower than in the 1970s. The only sites with four or more birds were Connah's Quay NR, Flintshire, and Penclacwydd, Carmarthenshire.

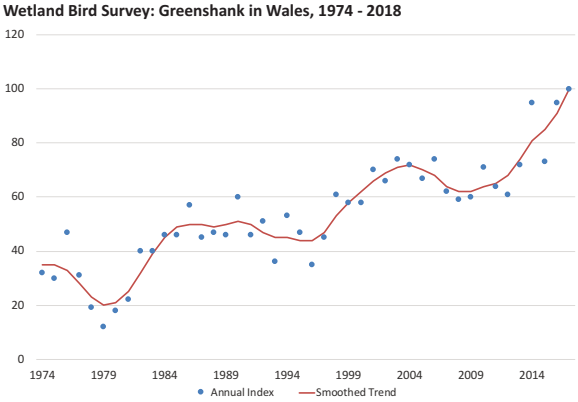
Monthly records	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT	2	2	2	2	1			2	1	3	2	
GOWER												1
CARMARTHEN	2	4	2				2	2	5	4	2	
PEMBROKE					1		2		2	1		
CEREDIGION	1	1	1	1						1	1	1
MEIRIONNYDD			1	3			1			1		
CAERNARFON	1			1				1				
ANGLESEY			1	1				1				
DENBIGH									1			
FLINT Connah's Quay NR	6		2	3	12	16	11	24	14			

GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia* PIBYDD COESWERDD

Locally common in coastal areas on passage, chiefly in autumn, uncommon inland. Small numbers over-winter. Wales Green listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	999	986
% of BirdTrack lists	4%	4%

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales reached another all-time high in 2017/18, 80% above its 1979 low-point.



Monthly max. at sites holding 15+ at least once during the year, or 8+ in winter:

>15 birds, or 8+ in winter	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	21	12	19	10	6	4	52	59	57	50	17	13
Gwendraeth estuary	5	15	11	4	2	2	28	31	30	8	6	9
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau estuary	13	21	19			1	22		15	22	31	27
MEIRIONNYDD/CAERNARFON												
Glaslyn/Dwyryd estuary	2	2	4				1	8	15	1	1	5
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	9	9	3	1			15	28	26	13	8	13
Foryd	4	8	5	4			11	14	10	16	10	12
FLINT												
Connah's Quay NR	20								27	23	14	14

Other counts of 15+ birds: CARMARTHEN: *c*.30 at Morfa Bacas on 11 Feb.

Approximate monthly totals (including site counts above):

Monthly totals	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT	3	3	2	2	8	2	4	6	6	7	2	1
E.GLAMORGAN				2	1			1	1	1	1	
GOWER	2	2	1	1			1	1	6	10	5	2
CARMARTHEN	28	59	31	15	8	6	80	90	99	58	24	22
PEMBROKE	13	21	19			1	22		15	22	31	27
CEREDIGION	3	3	4			1+	2+	4+	9+	3	3	1
BRECON					1		2	1				
MONTGOMERY		1										
MEIRIONNYDD	2	2	5	3		1	4	3	16	1	2	6
CAERNARFON	14	19	10	7	1	1	28	52	54	36	19	25
ANGLESEY	4	14				2	8	3	18	26	4	7
DENBIGH				9			1		3+		10	
FLINT	20								27	23	14	14

KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla* GWYLAN GOESDDU

Declining breeder in coastal areas from Gower to Caernarfonshire, except Meirionnydd (-35% during 1986-2015). Large numbers occur offshore on passage. The count unit is apparently occupied nests (AON). Wales Red listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	460	659
% of BirdTrack lists	2%	3%

Breeding counts (shaded figures show declines since the previous count): lower at most colonies than in the previous survey year, substantially at some (e.g. -62% at Carreg y Llam, -42% at Puffin Island):

Site/county	*AON*	*Previous count (year)*
GOWER		
Mumbles Head	90	167 (2011)
Worm's Head	11	18 (2011)
PEMBROKE		
St Margaret's Island	243	256 (2017)
Castlemartin peninsula	2	3 (2017)
Skomer	1236	1336 (2017)
Grassholm	30	23 (2012)
Ramsey	83	102 (2016)
CEREDIGION		
New Quay Head	332	280 (2012)
CAERNARFON		
Bardsey	90	125 (2017)
Carreg y Llam	317	845 (2015)
Great Orme	751	665 (2017)
Little Orme	225	327 (2017)
ANGLESEY		
North/South Stack	7	5 (2017)
Puffin Island	299	522 (2017)

Nest productivity: PEMBROKE: no young fledged at the once thriving colony at Castlemartin (Stack Rocks) which is now functionally extinct; average productivity on Skomer was 0.66 young/pair, higher than in 2017 (0.33) and the average for the last five years (0.57); CAERNARFON: a better year on Bardsey, with multiple young fledging from every colony. A study plot recorded 36 well-grown young from 39 AON, giving a productivity figure of 0.92 young/pair, 73.6% above the 10-year mean.

Max. counts from coastal watchpoints:

Monthly counts	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GOWER												
Mumbles Pier/Head		1	146	210	390	305	325	341	90	90	44	2
CAERNARFON												
Bardsey	38	1	69	40	156	134	143	1769	1606	4141	216	130

Notable non-breeding records: GWENT: four at Sudbrook on 4 Jan.; singles at Newport Wetlands Reserve Goldcliff on 5 Jan. and 8 Aug.; up-channel from Goldcliff Point on 19 Aug.; E.GLAMORGAN: five at Kenfig Pool on 3 Jan.; three at Lavernock Point on 14 June; 26 at Lavernock Point on 29 Oct.; CARMARTHEN: one at Pembrey Harbour on 27 May and 28 July; one at Cefn Sidan on 29 June; PEMBROKE: 2000 off Strumble Head on 21 Sept.; CEREDIGION: 150 past Mwnt on 28 July and 153 here on 21 Sept.; 360 past Gwbert on

27 Aug.; BRECON: 2CY at Dolymynach Res. on 15 Feb.; MEIRIONNYDD: nine at Broadwater on 19 June and eight here on 30 Sept.; CAERNARFON: 27 at Criccieth on 19 Sept.; 40 at Morfa Nefyn on 13 June; ANGLESEY: 60 in Holyhead Harbour on 3 Jan.; 120 fed off Bull Bay on 1 Feb.; 75 on Ynys Moelfre on 6 Aug.; 1400 past Cemlyn on 20 Sept.; 300 passed Point Lynas on 9 Dec. and 110 on 29th; DENBIGH: six at Kinmel Bay on 19 Dec.; FLINT: eight at Rhyl on 25 Aug.

SABINE'S GULL *Xema sabini* GWYLAN SABINE

Uncommon visitor to the coast in autumn, numbers vary according to the frequency of westerly gales.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	12	20
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

All records: E.GLAMORGAN: 2CY at Rhaslas Pond on 20 Aug. was the first county record away from the coast; PEMBROKE: Strumble Head (all adults), two each on 24 Aug., two on 25th, four on 27th, singles on 29th and 30th, and on 11, 14 and 21 Sept.; CAERNARFON: adult off Bardsey on 11 Sept., single 1CY here on 22nd and 23rd, and two 1CY on 19 Oct.; ANGLESEY: adult passed Cemlyn on 3 Sept.; adult off Point Lynas on 12 Sept.

BONAPARTE'S GULL *Chroicocephalus philadelphia* GWYLAN BONAPARTE

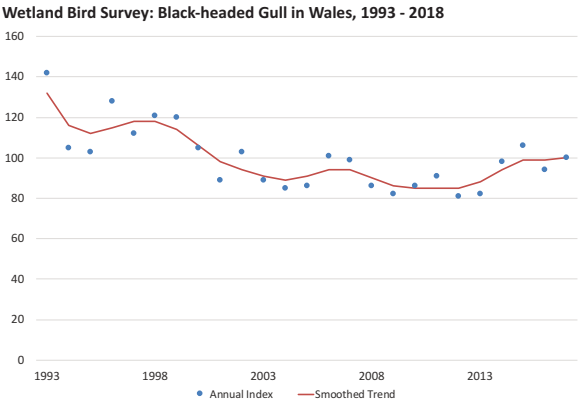
Rare visitor from North America. WBRC: 20 previous records.

PEMBROKE: 2CY+ at the Gann estuary on 4-5 Nov.

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* GWYLAN BENDDU

Locally common breeding resident, scarce only in south and southeast Wales during the summer months. A common and widespread passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales Red listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	6175	6360
% of BirdTrack lists	34%	34%



Breeding: CARMARTHEN: 418 pairs at Penclacwydd (360 on the freshwater lagoon and 58 on the deep water lake); CEREDIGION: 1 AON at Cors Caron (*cf.* 0 AON in 2016 and 2017, 19 AON in 2013); BRECON: 30-50 AON at Brechfa Pool in May, but all had failed by mid June; 1 AON at Llangorse Lake; MONTGOMERY: several hundred AON at Llyn Coed y Dinas; MEIRIONNYDD: 34 AON at Llyn yr Oerfel, Trawsfynydd; 2 AON on the west side of Llyn Arenig Fawr and three on the west side (failed by mid June); CAERNARFON: at least 1 AON at Morfa Madryn, but possibly several others; ANGLESEY: 13 pairs fledged 10 young at a site in southern Anglesey; 13 AON on The Skerries; 230 AON at Cemlyn, fledging 100+ young; 5 AON at Llyn Traffwll; DENBIGH: bred at

Towyn/Kinmel Bay; possibly bred on Llyn Brân; FLINT: 990 AON at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands (*cf*. 293 AON in 2012); 82 AON at Shotton Steelworks and an average 1.22 young/nest (*cf*. 171 AON and 1.66 young/nest in 2017).

Non-breeding: although there has been a marginal increase in the Wetland Bird Survey index (see previous page) for Black-headed Gull in recent years, the long-term trend remains down.

Monthly max. counts from sites recording 1000 or more at least once:

>1000 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT												
Peterstone Wentlooge	1000	268	170			465	465	950	300	20	300	275
Newport Wetlands	100	25	42	10	24	540	1000	334	64	20	50	60
Undy Shore						126	1620	1251		580		405
E.GLAMORGAN												
Cardiff Bay	800	1000	270	500	1		500	430	80	210	200	246
Llanishen/Lisvane Res.			90		2	1	2000	18	44	11	128	260
GOWER												
Blackpill	1656	875	364	218	31	249	783	1301	882	601	605	1025
Upper Loughor est.	1037	93	294	264	154	606	2087	1509	442	189	16	251
Penclawdd												
Llanrhidian	21	60	100	410	69	112	790	1009	265	52	13	7
Burry Inlet south side	390	710	95	440	90	430	1850	1255	1055	495	20	100
CARMARTHEN												
Dryslwyn/Cilsan	150	100								2000	302	
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau estuary	1127	847	408				25		1136	673	1069	1099
Llys y fran Res.										1200		1500
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake	320	1650	1000	140				10		50	850	1620
MEIRIONNYDD/CAERNARFON												
Glaslyn/Dwyryd est.	390	268	53						1063	3	160	61
CAERNARFON												
Bardsey	200	1	14	3	3	5	44	73	130	1288	520	350
Traeth Lafan	221	65	38	9	15+	615	2353	1977	1116	94	1249	70
FLINT												
Point of Ayr east	20	2					1100	400	300	200		
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	54	300	700	21	100	150	230	1200	240	300		60

Other large counts (1000+): E.GLAMORGAN: 1000 at Rhymney Great Wharf on 10 Oct.; PEMBROKE: 1500 at Landshipping on 10 and 11 Jan.; 1466 from Skokholm on 20 Nov.; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: 1200 at Teifi est. in Oct.; ANGLESEY: 1000 fed off Benllech during easterly gales on 4 March; DENBIGH: 1650 at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari, on 5 Feb.; 1000 at Llanddulas on 17 and 25 Feb.; FLINT: 2000 on the R.Clwyd between Rhyl and Rhuddlan on 13 Feb.; 5500 at Connah's Quay NR/RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 26 and 27 Jan.

Ringing: GWENT: a Polish-ringed bird at Llandegfedd Res. on 6 July.

LITTLE GULL *Hydrocoloeus minutus* GWYLAN FECHAN

Passage migrant and winter visitor to the coast, scarce inland. Wales Amber listed.

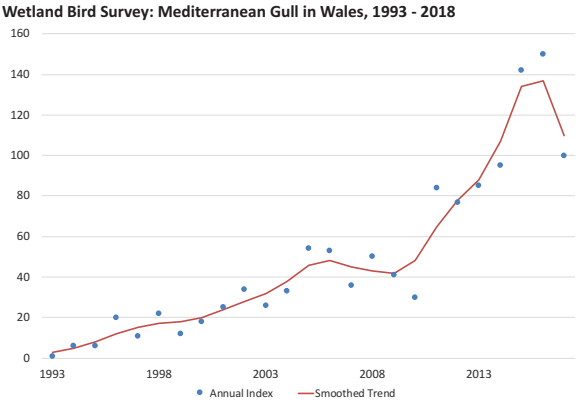
	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	154	130
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

All single birds unless otherwise stated: GWENT: 1CY at Newport Wetlands Reserve Goldcliff on 29 July and 1CY here on 8 Nov.; E.GLAMORGAN: two adults at Kenfig Pool on 21-22 March; three at Cardiff Bay on 27 March and two adults and a 2CY here on 9-10 April; 2CY at Cardiff Bay on 15 and 18 April and adult here on 24-30 April; 1CY at Cardiff foreshore on 2 Aug., relocated to Cardiff Bay barrage on 7-27 Aug.; 1CY at Cardiff Bay barrage on 12 Nov.; Ogmore est. on 21-22 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: adult at Penclacwydd on 11 March, adult and 2CY here on 23 April (2CY remained to 4 May); PEMBROKE: off Skokholm on 17 Sept., 2 and 18 Nov.; two passed Strumble Head on 18, 19 and 21 Sept.; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: Teifi est. on 5 March and 3 April; CEREDIGION: Clarach on 18 Jan.; New Quay on 15 Dec.; BRECON: two adults at Llangorse Lake on 15 April, adult here on 15 Dec. after 'Storm Deirdre'; MEIRIONNYDD: Dwyryd est. on 3 March; Farchynys, Mawddach, on 18 and 22 March; adult at the Broadwater on 6 and 14 April; MEIRIONNYDD/CAERNARFON: adult on Glaslyn Marshes on 9 Feb.; Glaslyn est. on 9 Dec.; CAERNARFON: Llanengan on 5 Feb.; Criccieth on 27 Jan. and 19 Sept.; Porthmadog on 15 Jan. and 11 Feb.; three off Llandudno on 4 March; Rhos Point on 2 March and two here on 17 May; two past Bardsey on 15 Aug., two on 20 Sept. and one on 21st; ANGLESEY: up to four adults between Moelfre and Benllech during easterly gales on 2-4 March; three at Cemlyn on 3 March; Holyhead Bay on 4 March; Inland Sea on 3 April; 1CY at Rhosneigr on 19 June; adult at Traeth Dulas on 20 Aug.; three passed Point Lynas on 23 Aug. and singles here on 27 Aug. and on 4 and 22 Sept.; 1CY passed Cemlyn on 14 Sept.; adult at Traeth Lligwy on 29 Sept.; FLINT: RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 18 May; Connah's Quay NR/RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 2 Aug.

MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Ichthyaetus melanocephalus* GWYLAN MOR Y CANOLDIR

Increasingly common visitor, chiefly to coastal counties at all times of the year. Small numbers breed – RBBP: 0-5 pairs on Anglesey in 2017. Wales Green listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	657	650
% of BirdTrack lists	3%	3%



Breeding: BRECON: 2CY in Black-headed Gull colony at at Brechfa Pool on 23-28 April, another 2CY here on 25 May; ANGLESEY: present at Cemlyn through the breeding season; a pair mated but did not breed.

Non-breeding: following the comment in last year's Report about the exponential growth in the Wetland Bird Survey index, counts dropped back in 2017/18, but it seems unlikely to stem the long-term increase. Small numbers winter in most coastal counties and late summer dispersal brings greater numbers to some places.

Max. monthly counts from sites recording 30 or more at least once:

>30 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GOWER												
Blackpill	106	30	72			13	249	284	361	311	200	226
Bracelet Bay	17	28	27	1	4	10	48	80	73	72	58	64
CARMARTHEN												
Pwll						2	168	135	174	23		
Pembrey Harbour						99	115	54	27	14		
PEMBROKE												
Angle Bay	1	1	2			3	33	24	11	22		
Gann estuary	56	17	7				2		26	7	31	12
Skokholm								3	2	243	407*	
CEREDIGION												
Llanon/ Llanrhystud/Llansantffraed							650	720	40			
Aberystwyth							84	39	44	44		
ANGLESEY												
Inland Sea	13					15	33	26		23		16

*county record.

Other counts of 30+ birds: GOWER: 48 at Port Talbot Harbour on 26 July; 49 at Port Eynon on 22 Oct. and 32 here on 30 Dec.; CEREDIGION: 58 at Aberaeron on 21 Oct.; CAERNARFON: 94 at Bardsey on 19 Oct. and 160 here on 21 Oct.

Ringing: CARMARTHEN: White 3YKA at Pembrey Harbour on 13 July and Burry Port Harbour on 14th had been ringed as a nestling at De Kreupel Island, Ijsselmeer, Netherlands on 24 June 2010 and was previously seen at Penclacwydd in June 2014 and 2016; Yellow ATHT at Burry Port Harbour on 4 July was ringed as a nestling at Moorfleet, Hamburg, Germany on 1 July 2011; White 3YRN at Penclacwydd on 15 June was ringed as an adult at Kallo, Oost-Vlaanderen, Belgium on 15 May 2017; Red ZRY5 at Penclacwydd on 15 June was ringed as an adult at Karvina, North Moravia, Czech Republic on 6 May 2014 and previously seen at Llanelli Beach in Sept. 2014 and in the Netherlands in May/June 2017.

Hybrid with Black-headed Gull: E.GLAMORGAN: Cardiff Bay on 15 March and 19 July.

COMMON GULL *Larus canus* GWYLAN Y GWEUNYDD

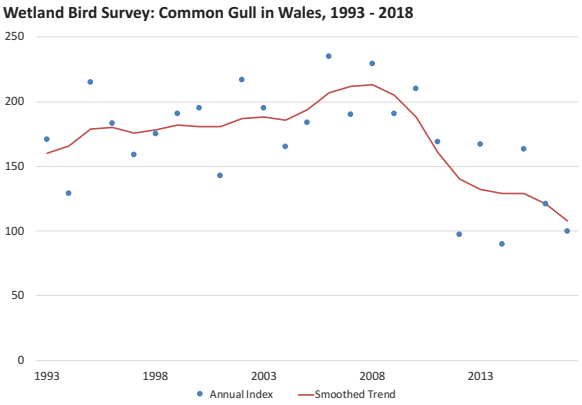
Numerous and widespread winter visitor with small numbers recorded on passage. Wales Red listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	**1283**	**1641**
% of BirdTrack lists	**7%**	**9%**

Common Gulls have become less common in the current decade, with the smoothed Wetland Bird Survey index reaching a new low, less than half the level of its 2008 peak.

Other counts of 250+ birds: GWENT: 1050 at Magor on 1 Jan.; 300 on flooded fields along the Olway Brook, Usk, in Jan.-March; 300 at Llandegfedd Res. on 9 Dec.; 700 at Usk showground on 20 Dec.; GOWER: 430 at Llanrhidian on 14 Aug.; 462 at Rhossili Bay on 27 Dec.; PEMBROKE: 250 on Gann estuary on 6 Jan.; 300 on Nevern estuary on 7 Jan.; CAERNARFON: 370 at Porth Neigwl on 1 March; 600 at Rhos Point in March; ANGLESEY: *c*.300 at Traeth Dulas on 7 Jan.; *c*.250 on the Alaw est. on 17 Feb.; 400 fed off Benllech in storms on 4 March; DENBIGH: 300 at Gellifor on 10 Dec.; FLINT: 1500 near Rhuddlan on 9 Feb.; 1500

on Shotwick Fields on 19 Feb.; 900 at Penbedw, near Cilcain, on 18 Feb.; 700 at Point of Ayr on 18 March.



Max. monthly counts from sites recording 250 or more at least once:

>250 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GOWER												
Blackpill	350	320	180	130	10	22	181	200	210	150	200	300
CARMARTHEN												
Pembrey Harbour				800			32	73	55			
Cefn Sidan/Tywyn Pt	71	253	1120							109	31	
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	15	12	2		25	12	360	320	28	14	3	270
FLINT												
Ffynnongroyw Bay							900	1300	700	160	20	31

RING-BILLED GULL *Larus delawarensis* GWYLAN FODRWYBIG

Uncommon but regular visitor to coastal areas, chiefly from mid-February to the end of May. WBRC: 323 previous records.

All adults. PEMBROKE: Llys y fran Res. from Dec. 2017 until 26 Feb. and again from 22 Dec. for its sixth winter; CEREDIGION: Tre'r Ddol, R.Clettwr on 18-19 Jan., presumed the same bird as in 2017.

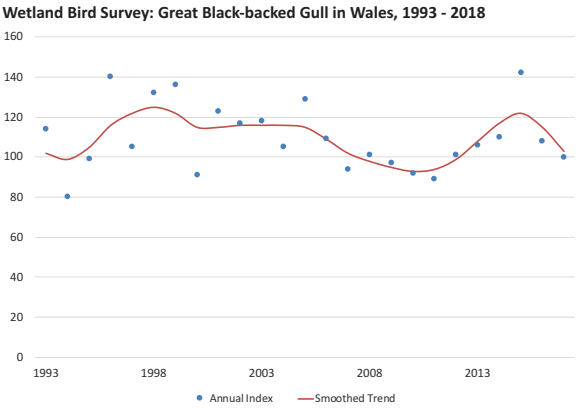
GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus* GWYLAN GEFNDDU FWYAF

Common and widespread in coastal areas in winter, widely distributed breeding bird along rocky coastlines in single pairs or small colonies. The count unit is apparently occupied nests (AON). Wales Red listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	**3155**	**3525**
% of BirdTrack lists	**17%**	**18%**

Breeding: the population appears to be stable or increasing slightly. GWENT: bred on Denny Island, where 30 chicks were counted on 16 June; GOWER: one pair bred at The Quays (Briton Ferry); one pair bred at Port Talbot Docks; PEMBROKE: min. 309 AON at 12 locations incl. 93 on Skokholm, 120 on Skomer (both the same as in 2017), 22 on Ramsey (*cf*. 10 in 2013) and 31 between Aber Bach and Strumble Head (*cf*. 28 in 1999); productivity on Skokholm was 1.4 fledged

young/nest (1.54 in 2017) and 1.92 on Skomer (the highest since 1996); CEREDIGION: 1 AON at Mwnt (Carreglydan) (*cf*. none in 1996); MEIRIONNYDD: pair at Ynys saltings on 22 May was possibly nesting on Ynys Gifftan; 1-2 pairs possibly nested at Llyn Trawsfynydd; possible territorial pair at Llyn Arenig Fawr; CAERNARFON: three pairs on Bardsey (37.5% below the 10-year mean) from which two young fledged from one nest; 35 AON on Ynys Gwylan Fawr and 15 AON on Ynys Gwylan (combined 6.1% below the 10-year mean; productivity of 0.54 is 31.6% below the mean); single pairs probably bred at Aberdaron, Pen-trwyn (near Craig y Don) and at Llyn Conwy (behaviour indicated the latter may have had young); ANGLESEY: 24 AON on The Skerries; 4 AON between Bodorgan Head and Abermenai; two pairs bred on Llyn Penrhyn; one pair bred at Llyn Maelog; two pairs on Llyn Traffwll; DENBIGH: bred at Llyn Brenig.



Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales has remained fairly stable for the last 25 years.

Max. monthly counts from sites recording 30 or more at least once:

>30 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	29	50	12	5		1	2	1	1	6	8	19
Cefn Sidan/Tywyn Point	66	38	26	1						22	53	4
GOWER												
Blackpill	13	7	19	9	41	24	45	16	25	29	3	19
Weobley	2	6	1			1	64	2	13	30		8
Burry Inlet south side	10	10	1	5	15	10	70	15	50	40	5	10
PEMBROKE												
Blucks Pool/Freshwater West	2	7	21						220	112		14
Gann estuary	1		2					80	80	5	4	3
Nevern estuary	6	5	25						34	15	15	4
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	27	18	10	4	11	16	21	38	39	61	53	7
FLINT												
Gronant		7	12	14	13		10	22	71	37	41	48

Other counts of 30+ birds: PEMBROKE: Skokholm roost counts: 64 on 19 Aug., 68 on 24th, 126 on 27th and 121 on 28th, 81 on 20 Sept., 128 on 21st and 135 on 22nd; 30 at Dale Airfield on 23 Sept.; 190 on Skomer on 22 Sept. and 147 here on 1 Oct.; 30 at Llys y fran Res. on 5 Jan.; CEREDIGION: 31 at Ynyslas in Dec.; ANGLESEY: 40 at Red Wharf Bay on 10 June; 41 at Puffin Island on 19 July; DENBIGH: 51 at Llanddulas on 11 Jan.; 30 at RSPB Conwy on 25 Nov.; FLINT: 60 at Hope on 11-17 Jan.; 75 at Burton Point on 11 Nov.; 80+ at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 22 Nov.

Great Black-backed Gull attacking Herring Gull (Adrian Foster)

GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus* GWYLAN Y GOGLEDD

Uncommon but regular visitor to coastal areas of Wales, chiefly in winter but occasionally in summer.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	217	109
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

33 birds (assuming no duplication). All singles unless otherwise stated: GWENT: 1CY near Sluice Farm on 18-20 Feb.; E.GLAMORGAN: 2CY in fields at Wentloog Level on 17-18 Feb.; 2CY at Rhaslas Pond on 20-21 March; GOWER: Swansea Vale on 7 Jan.; CARMARTHEN: Ginst Point on 2 April; Sandy Water Park on 28 Dec.; PEMBROKE: adult at Cosheston, Pembroke Dock and Angle Bay on 3 Jan. (presumed same); 2CY at Stackpole on 4 March; 2CY at Penberi Res. on 7 April; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: 2CY at Teifi est. on 25 Jan., and on 1-7 April (two here on 3rd); CEREDIGION: 2CY at Aberystwyth on 18 Jan.; adult at Llanrhystud on 20-22 Jan.; 2CY at Borth on 26 and 28 Jan. and at Aberystwyth on 28th and on 7 and 9 Feb.; 2CY at Llanrhystud on 13-14 Feb.; 3CY at Ynyslas on 18 April and presumed same here on 2 May; BRECON: 2CY at Llangorse Lake roost on 4 March; MEIRIONNYDD: adult on Ynys Saltings, Dyfi Junction, on 22 Jan.; 2CY at Barmouth on 17 March; CAERNARFON: Foryd on 4 Jan.; Morfa Bychan on 22 Jan.; Rhos Point on several dates between 23 Feb. and 18 March; Criccieth on 16 March; Pantglas on 28 April; 2CY on Bardsey on 23 March; 3CY at Afonwen on several dates during 4-14 Aug.; DENBIGH: 2CY at Llanddulas on various dates from 23 Dec. 2017 to 8 Aug.; Acrefair Pool on 14 Jan.; RSPB Conwy on 11 March; FLINT: RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 12 Jan.; Greenfield on 27 Jan.; Connah's Quay NR on 28 April.

ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucoides* GWYLAN YR ARCTIG

Uncommon and irregular winter visitor to coastal areas, formerly rare.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	73	131
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

38 birds. All single 2CY birds unless otherwise stated: GWENT: 1CY at Dunlop Semtex Pond/Waun Pond on 9 March, then at Hafod Farm on 18th and Brynmawr Ponds from 21 March to 3 April; E.GLAMORGAN: 3CY at Cardiff foreshore on 5-16 Jan. also at Cosmeston Lakes CP on 6-13 Feb. and at Cardiff Bay Barrage on 23 Jan. and 14 Feb.; Cosmeston Lakes CP on 7 Jan. and Cardiff Bay on 21st; different bird at Cardiff Bay on 16-26 Feb.; another at Cosmeston Lakes CP on 3-5 March; GOWER: 3CY at Blackpill on 12 March; Swansea Marina on 31 March and 1 April; Broughton Bay on 16 May; PEMBROKE: Wiseman's Bridge on 6 Jan. and 12 Feb.; Maidenwells on 12 Jan.; Poyerston on 22 Jan.; Llys

y fran Res. on 28 Jan. and two here on 20 Feb.; Carew on 2 Feb. and 27 March; Cosheston on 7 Feb.; Pembroke Mill Pond between 18 Feb. and 3 March; up to two at West Angle on 1-24 March; Gann estuary on 6-27 March; Skomer and Skokholm on 27 March; Panteg from 31 March to 3 April; up to two at South Studdock Farm on 1-20 May; Newport on 13 May and 12 July; Broad Haven and St. David's Head on 30 May; unaged bird at Goodhope on 26 Dec.; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: at Teifi est. from 18 Jan. to 8 April, and a 3CY here on 22 March; CEREDIGION: New Quay on 26 April; BRECON: Tŷ Mawr Pool, Llanfrynach, on 3 March and same at Llangorse Lake roost on 4-10 March and on 19th; ANGLESEY: Cemlyn on 6 May and presumed same at Cemaes Bay on 8th; DENBIGH: Llyn Brenig on 5 April; FLINT: two at Rhuddlan on 26 March; one at Rhyl on 6 May.

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus* GWYLAN Y PENWAIG

Common resident in coastal areas, now much reduced. Frequent in many inland areas, breeding on several freshwater sites. The count unit is apparently occupied nests (AON). Wales Red listed.

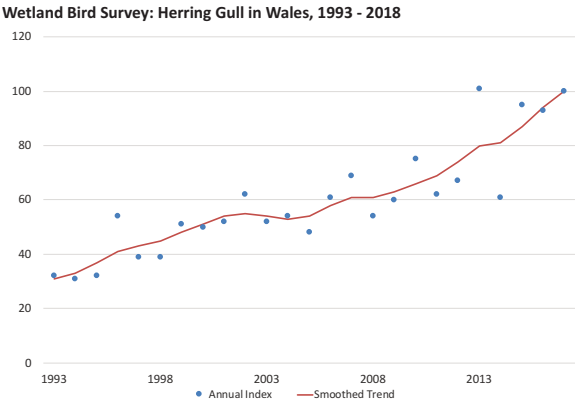
	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	9952	10159
% of BirdTrack lists	55%	54%

Breeding surveys indicate variable fortunes, with some regularly-counted sites up on the previous count but others lower. Despite some declines there were further increases at Caldey, Castlemartin Peninsula, Skokholm, Skomer and Ramsey; estimated productivity on Skokholm was 0.73 fledged young/nest (0.70 in 2017); on Skomer productivity was extremely low at 0.36.

Breeding colony counts in 2018 (shaded figures show declines since the previous count):

Site/county	AON	Previous count (year)	Site/county	AON	Previous count (year)
GOWER			CEREDIGION		
Blue Pool Corner	1	7 (2001)	Brynbala	1	2 (1996)
Rhossili	2	7 (2001)	Gwbert 1	1	5 (2000)
southwest Gower	3	16 (2001)	Mwnt 3	13	12 (2000)
PEMBROKE			Carreg-wynt-Mwnt	134	72 (1996)
Caldey	1876	1438 (2017)	Gilfach yr halen	36	65 (1996)
St Margaret's Island	140	236 (2017)	Aberporth 1 and 4	25	67 (2000)
Giltar Point to Barafundle Bay	120	202 (2017)	Llangrannog 1 and 2	102	353 (2000)
Castlemartin Peninsula	211	197 (2017)	Tresaith 2 and 3	24	109 (2000)
Freshwater West to West Angle	18	102 (1998)	Pen Glog	38	43 (2010)
Stack Rock, Milford Haven	min. 32	14 (2017)	Mwnt – Carreg-lydan	40	41 (1996)
Esso Jetty, Milford Haven	min. 16	40 (2001)	Cwm Tydu (1-3)	19	51 (2000)
Skokholm	320	302 (2017)	Lochtyn (1-3)	83	75 (2000)
Skomer	365	297 (2017)	New Quay Head	11	36 (2000)
Grassholm	49	14 (2013)	Penmoelciliau	92	161 (2000)
Stack Rocks, St Brides Bay	157	158 (2017)	MEIRIONNYDD		
Wooltack Point to Borough Head	14	0 (1999)	Barmouth rooftops	80	33 (2013)
Newgale to Abereiddy	437	456 (1999)	Barmouth quarry	47	52 (2000)
Ramsey	235	172 (2013)	Fairbourne rooftops	3	3 (2013)
Aber Bach to Strumble Head	502	599 (1999)	Friog cliffs	46	47 (1986)
Fishguard to Poppit	561	695 (2001)	Aberdyfi rooftops	64	37 (2013)
ANGLESEY			Tywyn	54	36 (2013)
North and South Stack	106	100 (2017)	Llyn Trawsfynydd	408	133 (1986)
Skerries	788	529 (2017)	Craig yr Aderyn	12	0
RSPB Valley Wetlands	1	1 (2017)	CAERNARFON		
DENBIGH			Bardsey	417	377 (2017)
RSPB Conwy	4	1 (2017)	Ynys Gwylan Fawr & Bach	165	145 (2017)

Other breeding records: GWENT: 10 AON on factory roof at Hadnock Road, Monmouth; 2 probable AON on Denny Island; bred at three other sites; E.GLAMORGAN: 1+ AON on cliffs at St Donat's; 3 AON on rooftops at Llanishen; single AONs on rooftops at Llandaff and Cardiff Prison; probably bred on Cardiff Civic Centre; GOWER: *c*.3 AON at Afan Way; 35 AON at Port Talbot Docks; 11+ AON at The Quays, Briton Ferry; eight AON at Giants Grave; seven AON on Endeavour Close Trading Estate; also bred in Port Talbot town centre, Afan estuary; old Ford factory Fabian Way, Swansea; Bay Studios, Crymlyn Burrows; Princess Way, Swansea; CARMARTHEN: breeding attempt on factory roofs at Cross Hands unsuccessful due to nests and eggs being destroyed by the factory owners under licence granted by Natural Resources Wales; pair nested on the dredger jetty in Pwll; MEIRIONNYDD: one AON at Smugglers Cove, Aberdyfi; many islands in Llyn Trawsfynydd are becoming cloaked in willow preventing the gulls from nesting; CAERNARFON: 417 pairs on Bardsey was the highest number of pairs recorded since the population crash in 2007, from which a min. 321 young fledged (0.77 young/pair, 18.5% above



Max. monthly counts from sites recording 1000 or more at least once:

>1000 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
E.GLAMORGAN												
Cardiff Bay/Wetlands	1500	1500	30	80	70	30	80	30	1	2	4	1200
GOWER												
Whiteford	60	280		37	270	1851	32	320	1016	250	28	
Blackpill	772	1353	290	344	758	862	716	1449	1820	1144	985	510
Crymlyn Burrows	487	136	471	16	38		493	2000+	1000+	1000	600	1050
Burry Inlet south side	355	805	70	210	965	2305	350	965	1875	655	200	45
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	706	2500	50	16	4	7	4	16	15	17	244	449
Cefn Sidan/Tywyn Point	1021	171	75		5					250	29	
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau estuary	1931	1740	554						457	1078	884	250
BRECON												
Pontsticill Res.	2500									575		
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	1188	614	163	100	50	360	765	698	292	254	478	254
Rhos Point	10	10	2000			40			18	3		20
FLINT												
near Rhuddlan	45	79		128	392		25		480	283	340	1000
Gronant	125	150	142	302	380		380		633	515	134	1600
Point of Ayr	1000		47		65	250	4000	10000	3010	300	17	6000

the 2009-2018 mean); *c*.200 AON on the roof of the old Friction Dynamics factory at Griffiths Crossing near Caernarfon; 1 AON at Morfa Madryn; occupied nests on roofs at several sites in Bangor and Llandudno; ANGLESEY: 53 AON between Bodorgan Head and Abermenai; 1 AON at Llyn Traffwll; DENBIGH: bred in six 1-km squares on the coast but also at Llyn Brenig; FLINT: bred at one site.

Non-breeding: in contrast to the lower number of registrations on BirdTrack, the smoothed Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales reached another new high in 2017/18, having doubled since the mid-1990s.

Other large counts (1000+) not included in the table on the previous page: GOWER: *c*.1000 at Neath est. on 9 Sept.; *c*.1000 on R.Neath saltmarsh on 30 Oct.; PEMBROKE: 1700 at Carew on 22 Jan. and 1540 here on 18 Feb.; 1000 at Llys y fran Res. on 5 Jan.; ANGLESEY: *c*.3000 large gulls, predominantly Herring, fed off Benllech on 2 March, huge numbers remained for the next two days; DENBIGH: 4000+ at Pensarn on 3 Feb.; 1257 at Llanddulas on 11 Jan.; 1000+ at Kinmel Bay on 1 Oct.; FLINT: 2500+ at Talacre on 14 Sept.

CASPIAN GULL *Larus cachinnans* GWYLAN CASPIA

Rare visitor from eastern Europe and central Asia. WBRC: four previous records.

GWENT: 1CY at Bettws on 14-21 Dec. was the first county record; E.GLAMORGAN: 2CY in Cardiff Bay on multiple dates from 16 Jan. to 8 April; CARMARTHEN: 2CY at Ginst Point on 2 April; presumed different 2CY at Penclacwydd on 20 April. First county records.

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL *Larus michahellis* GWYLAN GOESFELEN

Uncommon and irregular winter visitor to coastal areas, especially East Glamorgan and Gower.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	72	96
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

The records illustrate how many Yellow-legged Gulls winter in south Wales, yet they remain relatively scarce in the north.

Number of individuals (mostly adults) recorded from most frequently reported sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
Llandegfedd Res.							2	3	2			
E.GLAMORGAN												
Cardiff Bay	8	11	1	2	1			1		1		5
Cosmeston Lakes CP	2	1	1	1		1		2	1	1	1	
Llanishen/Lisvane Res.			1	1		1	2	2	1	2	3	
Roath Park Lake	2	1	1							1	1	1
Taff's Mead Embankment			1	1					2		1	
Cardiff Bay	8	11	1	2	1			1		1		5
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	1	1	1			2	1	1	1			1

Other records, all single birds unless otherwise stated: GWENT: adult at Dunlop Semtex Pond on 28 Jan.; 3CY in Newport on 4 Aug.; adult in Newport from 12 Aug. to 9 Dec.; 3CY at Newport Wetlands Reserve Goldcliff on 8 Sept.; adult in Bettws on 16 Dec.; E.GLAMORGAN: Ogmore-by-Sea on 4 Feb.; Ogmore est. on 6 and 20 Feb.; Caerphilly Castle moat on 1, 9 and 20 Feb., 3 March, 18 and 20 July, 16 Nov. and 14

Dec.; Rhymney Great Wharf on 16 May; Cardiff foreshore on 17 July; Rhaslas Pond on 20 Aug. and 10 Sept. and three here on 22 Aug.; East Aberthaw on 15 Oct.; Hailey Park-Llandaff on 10 Dec.; GOWER: Crymlyn Burrows on 19 Aug.; CARMARTHEN: Sandy Water Park on 16 Jan.; Pembrey Harbour on 13 March, 28 July and 29 Aug.; two at Cefn Padrig on 24 March; two at Pwll on 8 April and three here on 9 Aug.; Kidwelly Quay on 12 July; Pembrey CP on 4 Aug.; Banc y Lord on 3 Oct.; PEMBROKE: several at Llys y fran Res. in first winter period, incl. six on 5 Jan. and four on 4 Feb.; five here on 17 Nov. and 22 Dec.; two at Nevern est. on 19 Feb. and singles here on 23 Sept. and 31 Oct.; Dale on 27 Aug.; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: Teifi est. on 24 Jan., 22 Feb. and a 2CY on 6-7 April; BRECON: adult at Dderw Pool on 2 Feb.; Llangorse Lake on 10 March, 4CY here on 15 April, 3CY and 4CY together on 5 May; 2CY at Brechfa Pool on 11 May; adult at Llangorse Lake on 17 June and two adults here for extended periods from 18 Aug. to 30 Dec.; adult at Llyswen on 29 Dec.; RADNOR: adult present for much of the year along the lower R.Wye; DENBIGH: Llyn Brenig on 15 Nov.; Gresford Flash on 25 Nov.; FLINT: RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 9 March and 9 Sept.; between Rhyl and Rhuddlan on 19 July and 10 Aug.; Connah's Quay NR on 30 July.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus* GWYLAN GEFNDDU LEIAF

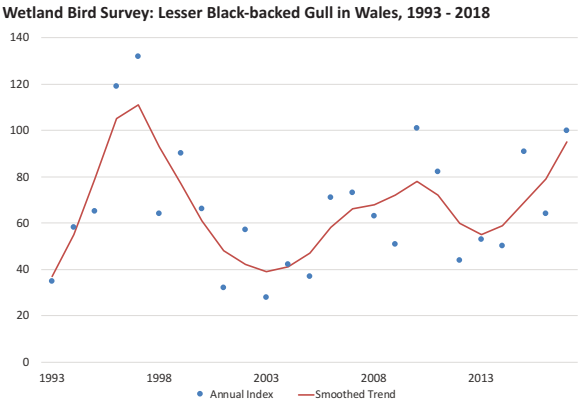
Breeding summer visitor, passage migrant and winter visitor. The count unit is apparently occupied nests (AON). Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	**6056**	**5730**
% of BirdTrack lists	**34%**	**31%**

Breeding counts in 2018 (shaded figures show declines since the previous count) indicate declines across Wales, although the rooftop counts have no previous comparison. The counts on Skokholm are

Site/county	AON	Previous count (year)
E.GLAMORGAN		
Flat Holm	2262	3856 (2013)
PEMBROKE		
Caldey	536	353 (2017)
Giltar Point to Barafundle Bay	1	1 (2017)
Castlemartin Peninsula	18	18 (2017)
Sheep Island	0	5 (1998)
Stack Rock, Milford Haven	min. 1	14 (2017)
Esso Jetty, Milford Haven	min. 2	60 (2001)
Skokholm	1069	1123 (2017)
Skomer	5410	4935 (2017)
Grassholm	38	7 (2013)
Stack Rocks, St Brides Bay	15	56 (2001)
Newgale to Abereiddy	71	156 (1999)
Ramsey	100	152 (2013)
Aber Bach to Strumble Head	56	109 (1999)
Fishguard to Poppit	33	11 (2001)
CEREDIGION		
Carreg-wynt-Mwnt	2	0 (1996)
Aberporth 4	0	6 (2000)
Mwnt – Carreg-lydan	1	0 (1996)
MEIRIONNYDD		
Llyn Trawsfynydd	79	115 (1986)
CAERNARFON		
Bardsey	177	164 (2017)
ANGLESEY		
North and South Stack	9	4 (2017)
Skerries	92	126 (2017)

the lowest in over 50 years, however there were some encouraging increases on Caldey and Skomer.



Other breeding records: GWENT: 92 AON on factory roof at Hadnock Road, Monmouth; 1 probable pair on Denny Island; bred at three other sites; E.GLAMORGAN: 55 pairs on Cardiff rooftops; GOWER: 6 AON at Giants Grave factory roof; 4 AON at The Quays, Briton Ferry; 33 AON at Port Talbot Docks; 18 AON at Afan Way, Port Talbot; 2 AON in Port Talbot town centre; 1 AON at Cimla; 4+ AON at Bay Studios; 1 AON on a garage roof near Neath Abbey Ruins; CARMARTHEN: breeding attempt on factory roofs at Cross Hands was unsuccessful owing to the nests and eggs being legally destroyed by the factory owners under licence granted by Natural Resources Wales; MEIRIONNYDD: 1 AON in Barmouth; 1 AON in Barmouth quarry; 1 AON at Friog cliffs; 1 AON in Aberdyfi; 7 AON on Craig yr Aderyn; CAERNARFON: the population on Bardsey recovered slightly to its 2016 level, but remains 12.9% below the 10-year mean. 99 young fledged here (*cf*. 62 in 2017) = 0.56 young/pair, 69.7% above the 10-year mean; the population is still a long way from the 615 pairs that nested in 2006; ANGLESEY: two pairs bred on Llyn Traffwll; 4 AON between Bodorgan Head and Abermenai; DENBIGH: bred at two coastal sites and at Llyn Brenig; FLINT: bred in Rhyl.

Non-breeding: a strong showing in the 2017/18 Wetland Bird Survey has pushed the smoothed trend for Wales back almost to its late 1990s peak.

Max. monthly counts from sites recording 200 or more at least once:

>200 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
E.GLAMORGAN												
Cardiff Bay	800	1500	80	80	140	50	150	60	1	1		500
Cosmeston Lakes CP	100	81	222	100	30	200	263	116	51	81	101	30
GOWER												
Blackpill	24	28	52	171	140	134	232	106	78	35	21	16
Upper Loughor est.	24	17	38	104	162	59	171	159	168	241	8	12
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	13	200	24	44	12	26	22	16	27	23	7	11
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau estuary	12	110	193						137	263	211	46
Llys y fran Res.	2500	2500	49						325	282	200	3500
Teifi estuary	100	10	220						18	9	22	120
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake		300	1500					258	1000	1500	2150	500
CAERNARFON												
Bardsey	5	4	35	145	45	338	104	138	27	27	2	
FLINT												
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	23	30		7	60	56	70	500	120	130	80	45

Other large counts (200+): GWENT: 350 at Usk on 17 March; 290 at Llandenny on 18 March; 300 at Bedwas on 10 July; E.GLAMORGAN: 255 at Llanishen/Lisvane Res. and 250 at Roath Park Lake on 2 March; GOWER: 300+ Crymlyn Bog on 8 Oct.; PEMBROKE: 1000 on Llys y fran Res. on 5 Jan. and 3500 here on 22 Dec.; CEREDIGION: 404 south off Ynyslas on 21 Sept.; BRECON: 296 near Groesffordd on 8 Oct. and 500 here on 11 Nov.; MONTGOMERY: 300+ at Dolydd Hafren on 24 Sept.

Baltic race *fuscus*: probable at Llandegfedd Res. on 1 Sept.

ROYAL TERN *Thalasseus maximus* MOR-WENNOL FAWR

Rare vagrant. BBRC: two previous records (one of the American race, one of the African race).

PEMBROKE: one on the Gann est. on 22 Dec. had previously been found on ANGLESEY, at Traeth Dulas and Traeth Lligwy on 10-11 Dec., and was subsequently seen on Scilly. It is the same individual previously seen on the Channel Islands and in West Sussex, and has been attributed to the North American subspecies *maxima*.

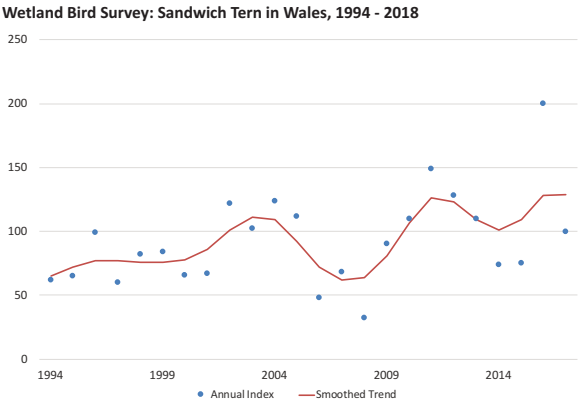
SANDWICH TERN *Thalasseus sandvicensis* MOR-WENNOL BIGDDU

Summer visitor and passage migrant to coastal areas in spring and autumn, scarce inland; it is a regular breeder at one site on Anglesey. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	573	628
% of BirdTrack lists	3%	3%

Breeding: ANGLESEY: Cemlyn had a more productive season than 2017, albeit with fewer breeding pairs. 519 pairs bred, with a minimum of 180 chicks fledged.

Non-breeding: Sandwich Terns are seen away from the Cemlyn colony through spring and summer, the Wetland Bird Survey index showing an increase during the last 25 years.



Counts of 50+ away from breeding colonies: GOWER: 81 at Port Eynon on 3 Aug., 75 here on 9 Sept., 59 on 15th and 50 on 21st; CARMARTHEN: 276 at Pembrey Harbour on 28 Aug. and 176 here in Sept.; *c.*300 at Cefn Sidan on 5 Sept.; PEMBROKE: 64 at Strumble Head on 25 Aug. and 95 here on 23 Sept.; CEREDIGION: 135 past Mwnt on 21 Sept.; MEIRIONNYDD: 80 (mostly adults) on Aberdysynni rocks on 4 Aug.; CAERNARFON: 77 at Rhiw on 30 Aug.; 115 at Porth Neigwl on 11 Sept.; 128 at Plas-yn-Rhiw on 9 Sept. and 50 here on 12 Sept.; ANGLESEY: 200 passed Point Lynas on 16 Aug.; 90 between Lligwy and Moelfre on 19 Sept.; 54 passed Cemlyn on 24 Sept.; DENBIGH: 100 at Rhos-on-Sea on 13 Aug.; 55 at Kinmel Bay on 14 Aug.; FLINT: 230 on the R.Clwyd near Rhuddlan on 15 July, 287 on 19th and 620 on 30th.

Monthly max counts	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
CARMARTHEN												
Pembrey Harbour				21	6	4	35	276	176	11		
CEREDIGION												
Ynyslas				68	100		200	168	13			
CAERNARFON												
Bardsey				1	9	3	3	678	86	1		
Foryd			1	24	11	18	6	6	300			
Traeth Lafan			1	40	70	40	490	715	408	13		
Rhos Point				6				450	85			

Inland: BRECON: two at Llangorse Lake on 7 April and at least one here on 19th; MONTGOMERY: five at Lake Vyrnwy on 22 Sept.

Earliest and latest dates by county:

	Earliest	Site	Latest	Site
GWENT	20 April	Llandegfedd Res.	11 July	Peterstone Gout
E.GLAMORGAN	27 May	Merthyr Mawr Warren	21 Sept.	Irongate Pt., Porthcawl
GOWER	**15 Feb.**	**Port Eynon Point**	21 Sept.	Port Eynon
CARMARTHEN	3 April	Pembrey Harbour	2 Oct.	Burry Port Harbour
PEMBROKE	30 March	Angle Bay & Gann estuary	25 Sept.	Skokholm
CEREDIGION	21 March	Aberystwyth	30 Sept.	Ynyslas
MEIRIONNYDD	6 April	Broadwater	30 Sept.	Broadwater
CAERNARFON	19 March	Foryd	**9 Oct.**	**Bangor harbour**
ANGLESEY	24 March	Cemlyn	**9 Oct.**	**Traeth Lligwy**
DENBIGH	9 April	Rhos-on-Sea	1 Oct.	Kinmel Bay
FLINT	18 April	Rhyl	20 Sept.	Gronant

LITTLE TERN *Sternula albifrons* MOR-WENNOL FECHAN

Summer resident which breeds in Flintshire – RBBP: 203 young fledged from 162 nests at two sites in 2017. Otherwise a spring and autumn passage migrant to other coastal areas, rare inland. Wales Red listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	**76**	**70**
% of BirdTrack lists	**<1%**	**<1%**

Breeding: FLINT: the Gronant colony increased to a new high of 171 nests and had a productive season with a min. 192 fledged; Merseyside Ringing Group ringed 302 nestlings and 53 adults between 4 June and 25 July; one pair at RSPB Point of Ayr failed to fledge young.

Earliest and latest dates by county:

	Earliest	Site	Latest	Site
GWENT	22 April	Newport Wetlands		
E.GLAMORGAN	25 April	Ogmore estuary		
GOWER			28 Aug.	Crymlyn Burrows
CARMARTHEN	**3 April**	**Pembrey Harbour**		
PEMBROKE			**23 Sept.**	**Strumble Head**
CEREDIGION	27 April	Llanrhystud	12 Aug.	Ynyslas
CAERNARFON			29 Aug.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	19 June	Cemlyn	14 Sept.	Cemlyn
FLINT	28 April	Gronant	15 Aug.	Talacre

All other records: E.GLAMORGAN: one in Cardiff Bay on 26 April; PEMBROKE: four passed Strumble Head on 24 and 27 Aug., five on 21 Sept. and two on 19 and 23 Sept.; CEREDIGION: two at Ynyslas on 8 June; CAERNARFON: singles off Bardsey on 26 and 27 Aug. and four here on 29th; ANGLESEY: three passed Point Lynas on 27 Aug.; FLINT: 150 at Talacre on 15 Aug.

ROSEATE TERN *Sterna dougallii* MOR-WENNOL WRIDOG

Occasional breeder on Anglesey. Elsewhere scarce on spring and autumn passage at coastal sites. Wales Red listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	3	37
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Breeding: ANGLESEY: one pair bred on The Skerries, fledging two young, the first in Wales since 2006.

All other records: PEMBROKE: singles passed Skokholm on 27 Aug. and 3 Sept.; singles passed Strumble Head on 16 and 23 Aug., eight on 26th and two on 27th; CAERNARFON: adult and 1CY at Bardsey on 1 Sept.; ANGLESEY: eight sightings of 1-2 individuals at Cemlyn during June and early July, include a 1CY on 17 Aug. that was ringed (probably at an Irish colony); two near Rhosneigr on 3 July; one passed Cemlyn on 1 Sept.; adult off Point Lynas on 10 Sept.

Hybrid Roseate X Common Tern was at Cemlyn on 3 and 24 June.

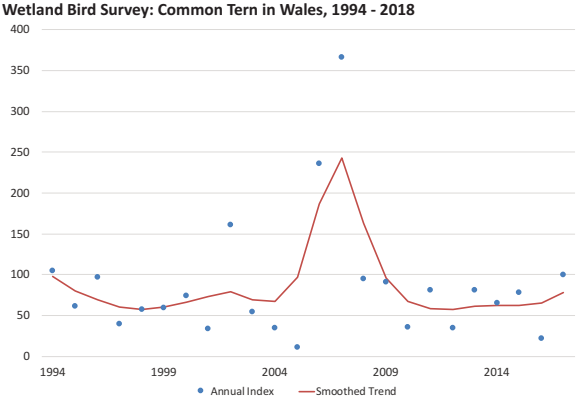
Ringing: PEMBROKE: the leg of a Roseate Tern, found below a Peregrine roost at Valero on 22 May, had been ringed at Rockabill Island, Dublin Bay, Ireland in July 2013; CAERNARFON: the 1CY above had been ringed at Rockabill, Ireland, in July 2018.

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo* MOR-WENNOL GYFFREDIN

Summer visitor, breeding in Anglesey and Flintshire. It is a spring and autumn passage migrant to all coastal areas, sometimes found inland. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	251	341
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%

Breeding: ANGLESEY: 10-15 pairs bred at Cemlyn, with 10 young fledged; *c*.185 AON at a site in southern Anglesey, with a max. 107 fledged young; 302 AON on The Skerries; FLINT: 349 AON at Shotton Steelworks (*cf*. 407 AON in 2017), where average breeding success was 1.03 chick/nest and 370 nestlings were ringed, a slight reduction on 2017.



Non-breeding: aside from the inexplicable increase in 2007, numbers seen around the coast during spring and summer Wetland Bird Surveys are fairly steady.

Large counts (10+ birds) away from breeding colonies: GWENT: 15 (12 adults and three 1CY) at Llandegfedd Res. on 15 Aug.; CARMARTHEN: 10 at Pembrey on 29 Aug.; PEMBROKE: 1069 passed Strumble Head: 36 in Aug. (max. 15 on 24th), 1033 in Sept. (incl. 1028 on 19th); 100 off Broad Haven on 2 Sept.; CAERNARFON: 146 off Bardsey on 27 Aug., 20 on 29th and 213 on 20 Sept.; 36 at Foryd on 20 May; ANGLESEY: 60 passed Cemlyn on 31 Aug.; 20 between Lligwy and Moelfre on 19 Sept.; DENBIGH: one at Llangollen on 23 June was an unusual inland record.

Earliest and latest dates by county:

	Earliest	Site	Latest	Site
GWENT	8 April	Bristol Channel	24 Sept.	Llandegfedd Res.
E.GLAMORGAN	4 April	Cardiff Bay	13 Oct.	Cardiff Bay
GOWER			4 Aug.	Worm's Head, Rhossili
CARMARTHEN	12 April	Cefn Padrig	19 Sept.	Cefn Padrig
PEMBROKE	28 June	Skokholm	12 Oct.	Teifi estuary
CEREDIGION	3 April	Ynyslas	12 Oct.	Teifi estuary
BRECON	**1 April**	**Llangorse Lake**		
MEIRIONNYDD	4 May	Llandanwg beach	**31 Oct.**	**Fairbourne**
CAERNARFON	20 April	Penrhyn Bay	12 Oct.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	21 April	Cemlyn	15 Oct.	Benllech & Traeth Lligwy
FLINT	22 April	Connah's Quay NR	9 Sept.	RSPB Oakenholt Marsh & Connah's Quay NR

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea* MOR-WENNOL Y GOGLEDD

Breeds only around the Anglesey coast, elsewhere a regular passage migrant to coastal areas, but generally scarcer than Common Tern, and scarce inland. Wales Red listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	**156**	**281**
% of BirdTrack lists	**<1%**	**1%**

Breeding: ANGLESEY: *c*.535 pairs bred at a site in southern Anglesey, from which 367 young fledged; 3435 nests on The Skerries, a significant increase on the previous year; 14-20 pairs bred at Cemlyn, and six young fledged.

Large counts (10+) elsewhere: PEMBROKE: 50 passed Strumble Head on 30 Aug.; 41 passed Skokholm on 3 Sept.; CAERNARFON: 247 passed Bardsey on 16 Aug., 216 on 27th, 367 on 29th, 357 on 1 Sept., 151 on 18th, 765 on 19th (a record site count) and 173 on 21st; ANGLESEY: 470 passed Point Lynas on 29 Aug., 470 here on 16 Sept. and 330 on 21st; 440 passed Cemlyn on 14 Sept.

Earliest and latest dates by county:

	Earliest	Site	Latest	Site
GWENT	**17 April**	**Llandegfedd Res.**	27 Sept.	Llandegfedd Res.
E.GLAMORGAN	**17 April**	**Cardiff Bay**	23 Aug.	Cardiff Bay
GOWER			**16 Nov.**	**Loughor Bridge**
CARMARTHEN	**17 April**	**Pembrey Harbour**	26 Aug.	Pembrey Harbour
PEMBROKE	18 April	Skokholm	21 Sept.	Strumble Head
CEREDIGION	30 April	Ynyslas	21 Sept.	Mwnt & Teifi estuary
MEIRIONNYDD			9 Sept.	Glaslyn estuary
CAERNARFON	22 May	Bangor harbour	12 Oct.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	22 April	Cemlyn	15 Oct.	Traeth Lligwy
FLINT	23 April	RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	19 July	Gronant

Arctic Tern (Adrian Foster)

Inland: GWENT: singles at Llandegfedd Res. on 24 May, 3 Sept. and 23-27 Sept., four here on 21 Sept.; MONTGOMERY: singles at Llyn Coed y Dinas on 18, 28 and 29 April.

BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger* CORS-WENNOL DDU

Fairly common passage migrant, chiefly to coastal counties in autumn but also recorded on inland waters; spring records are usually fewer in number but there are substantial influxes in some years. Wales Green listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	38	17
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Spring records: one at Shotwick Fields on 29 May.

Autumn records, singles unless otherwise stated: GWENT: Llandegfedd Res. on 3 Sept.; E.GLAMORGAN: Kenfig Pool on 21 Sept.; GOWER: one at Port Eynon on 21 Sept.; CARMARTHEN: one at Pembrey Harbour on 27 Aug.; PEMBROKE: two passed Strumble Head on 25 Aug., four on 26th and three on 27th; Broad Haven on 2 Sept.; CEREDIGION: Ynyslas on 27 Aug.; MEIRIONNYDD: Fairbourne on 6 Sept.; MEIRIONNYDD/CAERNARFON: two at Porthmadog Cob on 19 Sept.; CAERNARFON: Bardsey on 10 Aug. and two here on 10 Sept.; Rhos Point on 21-22 Aug. and on 25th; Glan Faenol on 6 Oct.; ANGLESEY: Point Lynas on 27 Aug., two here on 4 Sept. and one on 10th; eight passed Cemlyn on 3 Sept. and one on 20th; Traeth Lligwy on 19 Sept.

GREAT SKUA *Stercorarius skua* SGIWEN FAWR

Regular on autumn passage along the west coast where small numbers are also seen in winter and spring. Numbers vary annually, the highest counts dependent on the strength and frequency of onshore gales. Wales Green listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	37	69
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Single birds unless otherwise stated: GWENT: Newport Wetlands Reserve Goldcliff on 11 Aug.; E.GLAMORGAN: Lavernock Point on 26 April, 14 and 16 June, two here on 18 June; Nash Point on 29 June; PEMBROKE: one off Strumble Head on 2 June, then 11 here on 27 Aug., 37 on 21 Sept., 19 on 23rd and three in Oct.; 39 passed Skokholm, incl. five on 18, 22 and 23 Sept.; Grassholm on 21 Aug.; Skomer on 2 Sept.; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: Teifi est. on 18, 22 and 24 Sept., and two on 21st; CEREDIGION: Ynyslas on 2 May, 9 Oct. and 29 Nov.; two passed Mwnt on 28 July and 14 here on 21 Sept.; Gwbert on 27 Aug. and 22 Sept.; New Quay on 5 Oct.; CAERNARFON: Bardsey on 17 April, then 18 individuals in Aug., on 14 dates in Sept. (incl. 10 on 18th and 35 on 21st), 24 birds in Oct. (six on 25th) and singles on 15 and 20 Nov.; ANGLESEY: 18 passed Point Lynas between 23 Aug. and 26 Oct., then singles on 9 and 29 Dec.; 32 passed Cemlyn during Sept. (max. 13 on 20th); harassing gulls off Traeth Lligwy on 12 Dec.; FLINT: Gronant on 15 Aug.

POMARINE SKUA *Stercorarius pomarinus* SGIWEN FRECH

Fairly common offshore passage migrant, particularly in autumn. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	20	17
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

All records are singles unless otherwise stated: PEMBROKE: pale morph passed Skokholm and Skomer on 17 May; Strumble Head on 16 and 23 Aug., 11, 12 and 30 Sept., and three on 27 Aug., 18 and 23 Sept.; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: passed the mouth of the Teifi est. on 22 Sept.; CEREDIGION: Gwbert on 21 and 22 Sept.; CAERNARFON: Bardsey on 27 May, 21 Aug., on seven dates in Sept. (incl. two on 16th, three on 21st and four on both 14th and 15th), two on 3 Oct. and one on 7th; ANGLESEY: two passed The Range on 16 May; two adults passed Carmel Head on 9 Sept.; Cemlyn on 16 Sept.; two passed Point Lynas on 16 Sept. and two here on 27 Oct.

ARCTIC SKUA *Stercorarius parasiticus* SGIWEN Y GOGLEDD

Passage bird off coastal counties; scarce in spring, more numerous in autumn. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	58	65
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Records not included in the table: PEMBROKE: 18 passed Skokholm (max. three on 18 Aug. and 22 Sept.); PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: two off Teifi est. on 18 Sept. and five here on 22 Sept.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT				3	1							
E.GLAMORGAN						2			4			
GOWER									3			
PEMBROKE												
Strumble Head						1	1	59	107	6		
elsewhere								1			1	
CEREDIGION				1	1			2	18	2		
CAERNARFON												
Bardsey						2		16	75+	8		
elsewhere								1	1			
ANGLESEY												
Point Lynas								28				
Cemlyn								1	60			
elsewhere					2		1	4	2			

LONG-TAILED SKUA *Stercorarius longicaudus* SGIWEN LOSTFAIN

Uncommon visitor, chiefly along the western seaboard during westerly gales, spring records are very infrequent. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	8	6
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

All records were singles unless otherwise stated: PEMBROKE: singles passed Strumble Head on 27 Aug., 18 and 23 Sept., and two here on 21 Sept.; adult in the Celtic Deep on 27 Sept.; CEREDIGION: 1CY past Mwnt on 21 Sept.; CAERNARFON: two 1CY off Bardsey on 21 Sept.; 1CY on 1 Oct.; ANGLESEY: Point Lynas on 24 Sept.

LITTLE AUK *Alle alle* CARFIL BACH

Scarce winter visitor in irregular numbers off the western seaboard. Most sightings in late autumn and early winter; often associated with westerly gales.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	1	1
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

All records were singles: PEMBROKE: inland at Croes-goch on 24 Jan.; CAERNARFON: south past Bardsey on 5 Nov.

GUILLEMOT *Uria aalge* GWYLOG

Resident breeding species in southwestern and northwestern counties, moving out to sea to moult after breeding and returning to the vicinity of colonies as early as Dec. Wales Amber listed. The count unit is adults on land (AOL).

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	507	876
% of BirdTrack lists	2%	4%

Breeding counts in 2018 (shaded figures show declines since the previous count):

Site/county	AOL	Previous count (year)	Site/county	AOL	Previous count (year)
GOWER			CAERNARFON		
Worm's Head	169	190 (2001)	Bardsey	1112	1574 (2017)
PEMBROKE			Carreg y Llam	13,662	9676 (2015)
Caldey	57	58 (2017)	Ynysoedd Gwylan	59	23 (2017)
St Margaret's Island	1806	1378 (2017)	Great Orme	2027	2618 (2017
Castlemartin Peninsula	18,990	16,434 (2017)	Little Orme	573	805 (2017)
Skokholm	4316	4038 (2017)	ANGLESEY		
Middleholm	302	310 (2017)	North and South Stack	5243	6333 (2017)
Grassholm	2462	1849 (2012)	Puffin Island	4178	3085 (2017)
Aber Bach to Strumble Head	939	137 (1999)			
Fishguard to Cemaes Head	999	656 (2001)			
CEREDIGION					
Cardigan Island	97	87 (2015)			
Carreg-wynt, Mwnt	35	0 (1996)			
Llangrannog (1 and 2)	257	270 (2000)			
Lochtyn 1	477	543 (2000)			
New Quay Head	5418	3835 (2000)			
Penmoelciliau	174	117 (2000)			

Other breeding records: PEMBROKE: no whole island count on Skomer but numbers of AOL at study plots were up 2.47% on 2017 and estimated productivity was 0.76 young/pair (*cf*. 0.66 young/pair in 2017); CAERNARFON: sample plot of 95 AOL on Bardsey produced min. 29 'fledge-size' chicks (0.22 young/pair, 24.1% lower than the 10-year mean, but breeding success elsewhere on the island was considered to be higher); probably bred at Porth Ceiriad.

Non-breeding counts (5+): E.GLAMORGAN: 20 at Lavernock Point on 14 June; 100+ up Bristol Channel on 14 Nov.; GOWER: five at Port Eynon Point on 15 Feb.; *c*.80 at Rhossili/Mewslade on 3 June; six at Port Eynon Point on 13 June; five at Bracelet Bay on 18 June and six here on 28 July; 11 off Mumbles Head on 18 Sept.; 21 at Rhossili Bay on 25 Sept.; CEREDIGION: mixed Guillemot/Razorbill flock: 433 off Ynyslas on 1 Oct. and 2500 here on 30 Oct.; CARMARTHEN: *c*.25 at Cefn Sidan on 9 Dec.; MEIRIONNYDD: 40 off Tonfanau on 31 Oct.; ANGLESEY: 150+ at Moelfre on 5 Jan., 110 on 9 Jan. and 250 auks (mainly Guillemots) here on 4 Feb.; large autumn movements passed Point Lynas during the autumn; DENBIGH: 12+ at Llanddulas on 21 Feb. and an unprecedented 500+ off Llanddulas on 21 Oct. (with 500 Razorbills).

Max. monthly counts from Bardsey, CAERNARFON:

Monthly max.	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Bardsey	353	50	175	271	1331	1731	921	11	5	78	39	2500

RAZORBILL *Alca torda* LLURS

Breeding resident on the cliffs and islands of the northwest and southwest. Some disperse south in winter but others remain in Welsh waters. Wales Amber listed. The count unit is adults on land (AOL).

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	484	770
% of BirdTrack lists	2%	4%

Breeding counts (shaded figures show declines since the previous count): most monitored colonies in Anglesey and Pembrokeshire recorded increases, but even some of those with lower counts were still above the long-term average. Estimated productivity at three study plots on Skokholm was 0.69 young/pair (the highest estimate of the last six years) and on Skomer was 0.61 (the highest recorded since at least 2001). By contrast, Caernarfonshire colonies were 30% smaller than in 2017, though sample counts on Bardsey suggest productivity was probably reasonable - a min. of 277 eggs and young were counted here, a 0.4% increase on the 10-year mean.

Site/county	AOL	Previous count (year)	Site/county	AOL	Previous count (year)
GOWER			CEREDIGION		
Worm's Head	83	60 (2001)	Cardigan Island	98	87 (2015)
PEMBROKE			Carreg-wynt - Mwnt	69	17 (1996)
Caldey	116	69 (2017)	Llangrannog 1 and 2	144	138 (2000)
St Margaret's Island	287	307 (2017)	Lochtyn 1	97	46 (2000)
Lydstep to Skrinkle Haven	7	4 (2017)	New Quay Head	228	195 (2000)
Castlemartin Peninsula	1430	1502 (2017)	Penmoelciliiau	35	108 (2000)
Skokholm	2585	2491 (2017)	CAERNARFON		
Middleholm	410	398 (2017)	Bardsey	1972	1742 (2017)
Skomer	7529	7250 (2016)	Carreg y Llam	653	741 (2017)
Grassholm	39	53 (2012)	Ynysoedd Gwylan	44	37 (2017)
Aber Bach to Strumble Head	472	304 (1999)	Great Orme	189	143 (2017)
Fishguard to Cemaes Head	824	362 (2001)	Little Orme	27	25 (2017)
			ANGLESEY		
			North and South Stack	994	1173 (2017)
			Puffin Island	405	536 (2017)

Other breeding records: ANGLESEY: 1-2 pairs nested on The Skerries.

Non-breeding counts: GOWER: singles at Oxwich Bay on 1 and 16 Jan.; one at Sedgers Bank on 7 Oct.; CARMARTHEN: five at Cefn Sidan on 9 Dec.; MEIRIONNYDD: seven off Tonfanau on 31 Oct.; CAERNARFON: 18 off Llanfairfechan on 11 Jan.; ANGLESEY: 100 at Moelfre on 10 Dec.; large numbers of mixed auks passed Point Lynas in the autumn (max. count 2200 on 22 Oct., 90% of which were Razorbills); DENBIGH: an unprecedented 500 at Llanddulas on 20 Oct. (with 500 Guillemots).

Monthly maximum counts from Bardsey, CAERNARFON:

Monthly maxima	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Bardsey	16	5	361	728	1157	2900	1082	9	1468	2207	413	18

2017 errata

PEMBROKE: there was no count in 2017 on Skomer, and the 2016 count shown should have been 7250 AOL.

BLACK GUILLEMOT *Cepphus grylle* GWYLOG DDU

Very scarce breeding resident in Anglesey and rarely elsewhere. Occurs sparingly off the coasts of Wales outside the breeding season. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	152	251
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%

Breeding season: PEMBROKE: up to three in Fishguard Harbour between 25 March and 1 Aug. were presumed to have bred; CAERNARFON: bred on the Great Orme, four of 14 birds on 18 July were 1CY; one in Trefor Harbour on 15 May; ANGLESEY: 19 at Fedw Fawr on 9 April; 12 birds in Holyhead Harbour (five chicks ringed); two displaying pairs at Benllech on 17 Feb.; pair regularly at Cemlyn during the summer and one fledged chick near Wylfa power station.

All records away from above sites, singles unless otherwise stated: GOWER: Knab Rock on 25 June; CEREDIGION: Aberystwyth on 28 April and 4 May; CAERNARFON: 1-3 off Bangor Pier between 22 Sept. and 27 Oct.; Llanfairfechan on 18 Feb.; Felinheli on 7 Oct.; Pwllheli on 3 Oct.; Bardsey on 4 July and 29 Aug.; ANGLESEY: regular in Holyhead Harbour in both winter periods (max. five on 27 Feb.); two in Beddmanarch Bay on 22 Jan.; Rhosneigr on 3 and 19 June; two passed Point Lynas on 27 Oct.; DENBIGH: Rhos-on-sea on 13 Nov. was the first county record since 2015.

PUFFIN *Fratercula arctica* PÂL

Breeding bird of offshore islands and a few western headlands. Formerly bred in large numbers. Wales Red listed. Count unit is Apparently Occupied Burrows (AOB) or Adults on Land (AOL).

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	163	346
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	2%

Breeding counts (shaded figures show declines since the previous count): increases at most colonies, incl. on Skomer, the largest in Wales, which reached the highest since modern records began in 1988, but estimated productivity at a North Haven study plot, Skomer, was 0.62 young/pair, lower than in recent years. Productivity at Crab Bay, Skokholm, was 0.75 young/pair (*cf.* 0.8 in 2017).

Site/county	AOB	Previous count (year)
PEMBROKE		
St Margaret's Island	2	4 (2017)
Stackpole Head	5	1 (2017)
Skokholm	8762	7800 (2017)
Skomer	30,895	25,227 (2017)
Bishops & Clerks	80	42 (2012)
CAERNARFON		
Bardsey	132	169 (2017)
Ynys Gwylan Fawr & Bach	697	663 (2017)
ANGLESEY		
North and South Stack	7	12 (2017)
Puffin Island (AOL)	24	19 (2017)
Skerries	489	156 (2017)

Other counts around breeding sites: ANGLESEY: 12 at Penmon on 23 May; 30 at RSPB South Stack on 5 June; 17 off Cemlyn on 14 July and 32 on 21st.

Non-breeding: GOWER: one in Swansea Bay on 1 Jan.; CEREDIGION: one at Cardigan Island on 1 June.

Puffin (Adrian Foster)

Monthly maximum counts off Bardsey, CAERNARFON:

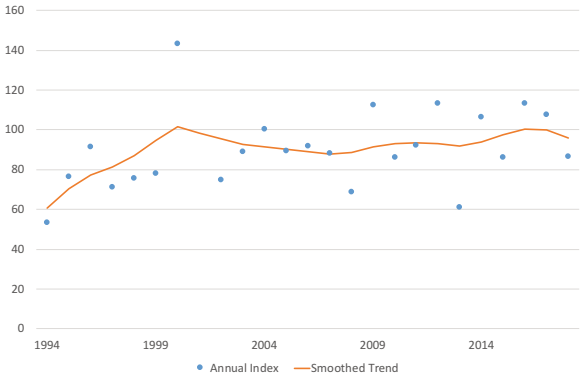
	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Bardsey	0	0	3	5	50	131	131	7	0	0	0	0

FERAL PIGEON *Columba livia* COLOMEN DDOF

Common resident in most towns and on some sea cliffs (Category C). Greatly under-recorded. Wales Green listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	**2789**	**2841**
% of BirdTrack lists	**16%**	**16%**

Breeding Bird Survey: Feral Pigeon in Wales, 1994 - 2018



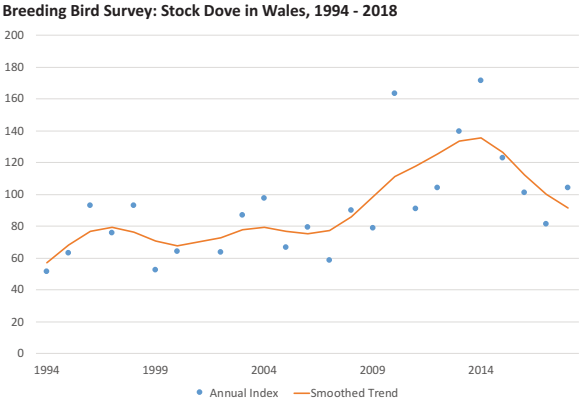
The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales is 42% higher than in 1994, but has increased only slightly during the last decade.

Large counts (100+): E.GLAMORGAN: flocks of 100+ in five months by the R.Taf, between Taff Embankment and Cooper's Field, max. 154 in Jan.; flocks of 120 and 150 in Cardiff city centre in Feb. and Dec. respectively; 139 around Victoria Park area, Cardiff, on 6 May; 150 at Aberthaw Power Station on 29 Oct.; 112 at Knap Lake in Nov.; 100 at Cowbridge Road East, Cardiff, on 31 Dec.; GOWER: 150+ in Neath and 80-120 in Port Talbot throughout the year; 120 at Brynmill Park in Dec.; BRECON: 150 in Brecon throughout the year; DENBIGH: 170 on Colwyn Bay Pier on 8 June; FLINT: 116 in Rhyl on 18 Nov.

STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas* COLOMEN WYLLT

Breeding resident occurring widely but not numerously, most common in lowland areas. Wales Green listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	720	692
% of BirdTrack lists	4%	3%



The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales is 46% higher than in 1994, though has dropped back by 20% in the last five years, reversing the gains made in the previous five.

Large counts (15+): GWENT: 40 at Dingestow Court on 20 Jan.; 25 at Llandenny on 3 March; 40 at Llanybi on 5 March and 50 here on 15th; 60 near Chain Bridge on 17 March; 54 at Osbaston on 25 Sept.; E.GLAMORGAN: 20 at Lavernock Pt. on 31 Oct., 30+ here on 5 Nov., 120 on 15th, 80 on 17th and 120 on 18th; 49 at Lanlay Meadows/Ely floodplain on 11 Nov.; 30 at Flemingston Moor on 19 Dec.; GOWER: 40 at Rhossili Head on 22 Oct.; *c.*20 at Margam Moors on 28 Oct.; CARMARTHEN: 22 at Penlan Uchaf on 9 Jan.; PEMBROKE: 23 at Martletwy on 17 Feb.; CEREDIGION: 45 at Ynys Tachwedd in Nov. and 49 here in Dec.; BRECON: 53 at Newbridge-on-Wye on 7 Feb.; 21 at Llandefaelog on 28 Feb.; 32 at Aberbran Fawr on 8 May; 15 at Rhydywernen Farm on 19 Sept.; 15 on a Glastir wildbird crop at Pennorth on 28 Sept. and 100 here on emerging winter wheat seedlings on 15 Oct., remaining into Nov.; MONTGOMERY: 80+ at Dolydd Hafren during 30 Sept. to 3 Oct.; MEIRIONNYDD: 32 at Corwen on 20 Feb.; CAERNARFON: 22 at Crymlyn on 1 Jan.; ANGLESEY: 15 on a stubble field at Mynydd Bodafon on 18 Aug.; DENBIGH: 20 at Gresford Flash on 1 Jan.; FLINT: 70+ at Sandycroft on 7 Feb. and 44 here on 19 Dec.; flock at Connah's Quay NR included 28 on 28 Aug. and 62 on 7 Dec.

2017 MONTGOMERY: 60+ at Dolydd Hafren on 24 Sept.

WOODPIGEON *Columba palumbus* YSGUTHAN

Abundant breeding species, passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales Green listed.

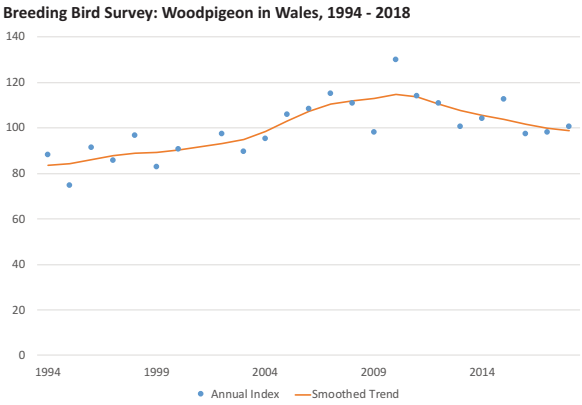
	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	10670	10449
% of BirdTrack lists	60%	57%

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales is 19% higher than in 1994 but has fallen by 14% since 2010.

Once again, there were high counts over southeast Wales in the autumn, but not on the scale of 2017's huge movements, and in a more limited area. Numbers peaked on 27-31 October.

Large flocks (300+): GWENT: 10,000 over Newport Wetlands Reserve on 21 Sept., 600 here on 18 Oct., 2250 on 19th, 1000 on 20th, 600 on 23rd and 10,000 on 27th; 3540 over Peterstone Wentlooge on 21 Oct. and 800 here on 24th; E.GLAMORGAN: 25 counts (16 >1000 birds) between 17 Oct. and 19 Nov. from a range of sites but especially Lavernock Point in Nov. Highest counts were 11,700 over Leckwith Common

on 22 Oct., 24,200 here on 27th and 5325 on 29th; 6740 over Llanishen/Lisvane Res. on 25 Oct. and 5000+ over East Aberthaw on 24 Oct.; GOWER: 5275 over Eglwys Nunydd Res. on 27 Oct.; 652 over Heol Cae Bont on 28 Oct.; *c*.300 at Neath Canal on 28 Oct.; CARMARTHEN: 350 over Taliaris on 29 Oct.; CEREDIGION: 450 at Pant pool in Aug.; 341 over Ynyslas on 16 Nov.; BRECON: 800 in the Claerwen Valley on 16 Oct.; 400 over Brecon on 23 Oct.; 2100 over Llangasty on 28 Oct.; 350 over Talybont Res. on 18 Nov.; 1000+ at Llysdinam on 22 Nov.; DENBIGH: 300 at Gresford Flash on 1 Jan.; 340 at Erddig Pool on 1 March; FLINT: 500 at Sychdyn on 27 Feb.; 637 near Bagillt on 18 Oct.



TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur* TURTUR

Extinct as a breeding species following a long decline in the late 20th century; now a scarce passage migrant, mainly in spring. Wales Red listed.

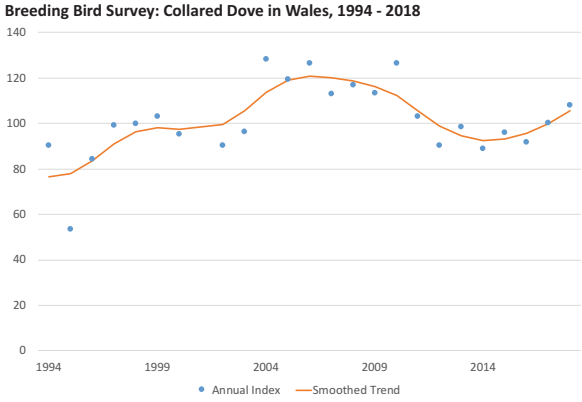
	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	15	11
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Five records in a year is a new low, not surprising given the 83% decline in the UK breeding population in the last decade. All records were single birds: GOWER: West Cliff Southgate from 25 May to 1 June; PEMBROKE: Dale airfield on 23 May; Skokholm on 9 June and 4 Oct.; CAERNARFON: Bardsey on 3 June.

COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto* TURTUR DORCHOG

Widespread and common resident, having first appeared in Wales in 1959. Wales Green listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	3392	3471
% of BirdTrack lists	19%	19%



The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales is 28% higher than in 1994, and has made up all of the losses witnessed in the first half of the current decade.

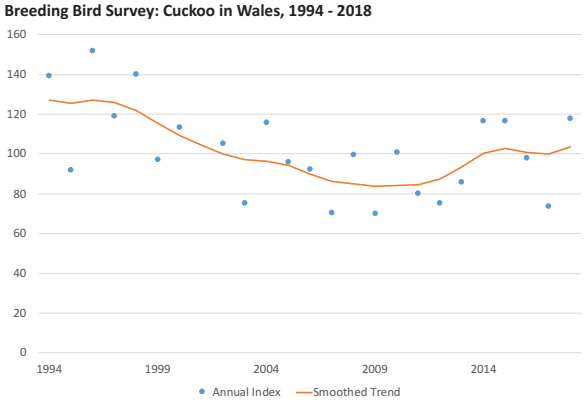
Counts of 25+: E.GLAMORGAN: 34 at St Brides Major on 26 Dec.; DENBIGH: 32 at Rhewl on 16 Aug.; FLINT: 69 at Rhyl Brickfields Pond on 20 Nov. and 24 here on 30 Dec.

2017 MONTGOMERY: *c*.60 at Dolydd Hafren on 8 Nov. and *c*.50 here on 19 Nov.

CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus* COG

Formerly locally common breeding summer visitor to all counties but declining and far from common; also recorded on passage. Wales Red listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	485	577
% of BirdTrack lists	2%	2%



The Breeding Bird Survey index has been higher than the recent means in three of the last five years, leading to a trend line matching the 2001 figure, but it remains 20% lower than in 1994. Another couple of years of numbers similar to 2018 would provide real hope for Cuckoos as an integral part of the Welsh summer.

Territorial males: GWENT: four sites, incl. four at The Blorenge and Mynydd Llangatwg and three at two other sites; E.GLAMORGAN: singing males at 29 sites; GOWER: bred at two sites, possibly at three others; CARMARTHEN: 25 locations, incl. multiple birds at nine sites (juveniles at two); PEMBROKE: breeding evidence from eight 1-km squares; CEREDIGION: recorded at 15 sites, a further decrease (*cf*. average 29 sites in previous eight years); BRECON: recorded at 37 locations in May, incl. three birds at two sites; MEIRIONNYDD: recorded at 63 sites, incl. two or more birds at six sites; CAERNARFON: 52 locations, mostly in Snowdonia and the Migneint, incl. multiple birds at five sites; bred successfully on Bardsey for fifth consecutive year; ANGLESEY: only six records, but three came from the Cemlyn area in July, incl. a juvenile; DENBIGH: records from 67 1-km squares, one confirmed breeding; FLINT: records from eight 1-km squares, incl. three at two sites, but only one confirmed breeding.

Earliest and latest dates by county:

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	**9 April**	**Mathern**		22 July	Llandegfedd Reservoir
E.GLAMORGAN	15 April	Hendre Lake		8 July	Lavernock
GOWER	12 April	Rhyd y Gwyn		19 July	Cwm Dyffryn
CARMARTHEN	12 April	Pal y Cŵrt		22 June	Mynydd Pencarreg
PEMBROKE	18 April	Carnedd Meibion Owain		10 Aug.	Skokholm
CEREDIGION	15 April	Clarach			
BRECON	17 April	Buckland Hill		27 June	RSPB Carngafallt
RADNOR	17 April	no location given		30 Aug.	no location given
MONTGOMERY	18 April	Dolydd Hafren			
MEIRIONNYDD	14 April	Penrhyndeudraeth		27 July	Moel Cors y Garnedd
CAERNARFON	19 April	Llangybi		**12 Sept.**	**Llyn Idwal**
ANGLESEY	27 April	Llanddyfnan		late July	Cemlyn
DENBIGH	19 April	Ruabon Mountain		21 July	Penycae
FLINT	16 April	Gwaenysgor		5 Aug.	Cilcain

2017 MONTGOMERY: earliest was at Cors Dyfi on 16 April.

Cuckoo (Bob Garrett)

BARN OWL *Tyto alba* TYLLUAN WEN

Breeding resident in all counties. The population may be stable in the long term in many counties, but numbers are still considerably reduced in some areas following a run of cold winters. Wales Green listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	136	129
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

GWENT: 11-14 nesting pairs; E.GLAMORGAN: three possible breeding pairs; recorded at 15 other sites; GOWER: bred at eight sites; recorded at a further 12; CARMARTHEN: bred at three sites; recorded at 10 others; PEMBROKE: bred at one site, probably at three others, and present at a further 20; CEREDIGION: recorded at a few sites, but believed to be under-recorded; BRECON: probably bred at two sites, and possibly at 10 others; MONTGOMERY: a good breeding season, with 75 breeding attempts fledging 217 young (Montgomeryshire Barn Owl Group); MEIRIONNYDD: six pairs bred, incl. four in the Abergynolwyn area from which 19 chicks were ringed, and seen at three other sites in summer; recorded at 12 other sites; CAERNARFON: at 18 sites but no confirmed breeding; ANGLESEY: occupied territory at RSPB Cors Ddyga; recorded at six other sites; DENBIGH: recorded in 27 1-km squares; 42 young fledged from 17 nesting attempts (2.47 young/nest); FLINT: recorded in 13 1-km squares; one nest fledged three young.

2017 MONTGOMERY: 61 breeding attempts, of which 57 were successful, producing 261 chicks (Montgomeryshire Barn Owl Group).

SNOWY OWL *Bubo scandiacus* TYLLUAN YR EIRA

Rare visitor from Arctic. BBRC: nine previous records.

A remarkable series of sightings of a 2CY+ female that presumably stayed in Wales from late winter to mid autumn. PEMBROKE: at St David's Head from 30 March to 6 April, then presumed same on Skomer on 30 May, then on ANGLESEY, near Amlwch on 15 June and RSPB South Stack on 7-8 July, then at Craig Ddrwg in the Rhinogau, MEIRIONNYDD, on 7-11 October. It was a first county record in Pembrokeshire and Meirionnydd.

TAWNY OWL *Strix aluco* TYLLUAN FRECH

Common and widespread breeding resident in areas of woodland in all counties but possibly declining. Wales Green listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	408	568
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	2%

A nocturnal survey of calling Tawny Owls was organised by the British Trust for Ornithology during August-October 2018. Based on a detection probability of 51%, the occupancy rate of randomly-selected tetrads in Britain was 53% compared to 65% in 2005, suggesting a decline in population. Preliminary analysis indicates that occupancy has remained unchanged in their favoured broadleaf woodland, but has fallen in coniferous woodland (Massimino and Hanmer 2019). No figures are yet available for Wales.

Breeding records and significant counts: GWENT: fledged young at four sites; E.GLAMORGAN: three confirmed pairs; present at 44 other sites; GOWER: bred at nine sites, probably at one other; recorded at 37 other sites; CARMARTHEN: one pair bred; recorded at eight other sites; PEMBROKE: breeding evidence in 13 of 41 1-km squares in which birds were recorded, this included territory occupancy in 29% of 34 tetrads surveyed for the BTO survey; BRECON: breeding confirmed at 10 sites, and probably at many more; MEIRIONNYDD: breeding confirmed at two sites, probably at three sites and possibly at another three; CAERNARFON: two confirmed pairs; probable breeding at eight other sites, and present at another 27; ANGLESEY: pair at two sites, but only two other records; DENBIGH: recorded in 60 1-km squares, bred in two; FLINT: recorded in 87 1-km squares.

2017 MONTGOMERY: nine nests produced a minimum of 11 chicks at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy.

LITTLE OWL *Athene noctua* TYLLUAN FACH

Introduced (Category C). Localised breeding resident in some eastern counties, scarcer and probably decreasing in the west. Records have been fewer in many counties in recent years, and it has been suggested that the species is now more nocturnal than previously.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	75	110
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	1%

Several counties reported an increased number of records; the total below includes three confirmed pairs and 14 possible pairs. GWENT: 2-3 breeding pairs, and records from six other sites; E.GLAMORGAN: present at three previous breeding sites, and at five other sites during the year; CARMARTHEN: records from two sites were the first in the county since 2014; PEMBROKE: records at three mainland sites, plus Ramsey and Skokholm; CEREDIGION: pair at one site; one other record; MONTGOMERY: pair at Cefn Coch; singles at three other sites in July-Dec.; MEIRIONNYDD: one at Pont Croesor on 12 May; CAERNARFON: present at two sites on Llŷn, and on Bardsey where three pairs

held territory but no breeding was suspected; ANGLESEY: two pairs at Cemlyn, from which at least one fledged; pair at Rhoscolyn through the year; singles at two other sites; DENBIGH: singles at six sites, and two near Holt on 20 March; FLINT: singles at three sites.

2017 MONTGOMERY: breeding confirmed near Guilsfield. Singles near Carno in early April; at Llanymynech four times between mid May and mid Sept.; at Frochas Common in mid Aug.; at Bwlchyddar in Aug.; in the Cefn Coch area from Oct. to the end of year.

LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus* TYLLUAN GORNIOG

Scarce resident in some counties. RBBP: 4-15 pairs in 2017. Also a scarce winter visitor and passage migrant. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	**5**	**9**
% of BirdTrack lists	**<1%**	**<1%**

Breeding: 9-10 pairs (but no records from inland Gwent where four territories were found in 2017). Nonetheless, it is almost certainly under-recorded and tape playback in a conifer plantation adjacent to moorland on a calm night in late Feb./March could reveal more. All records: GWENT: one singing male in the south of the county; E.GLAMORGAN: one left a roost at Kenfig NNR on 24 July; PEMBROKE: one at St David's Head on 7 Sept.; three on Skomer on 4 and 7 Nov.; BRECON: one at Llysdinam on 23 March; juveniles reported heard in the Wye Valley north of Erwood; RADNOR: breeding confirmed at five sites; MEIRIONNYDD: one at Nant Prysor south plantation on 27 April; CAERNARFON: a passage migrant on Bardsey on 7 May; ANGLESEY: family group in a plantation near Holyhead in May, the first known breeding in the county since 1978; DENBIGH: two juveniles in Coed Llandgela on 11 July; FLINT: one near Rhuallt on 14 Oct.

2017 MONTGOMERY: singles at Llyn Mawr on 15 Jan. and near Mochdre on 11 Dec.

SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus* TYLLUAN GLUSTIOG

Scarce breeding resident. RBBP: 12-21 pairs in 2017. Winter visitor and passage migrant in small numbers to all counties. Wales Red listed.

Approximate monthly totals (excluding breeding records below):

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT	3	2	1	1						3	3	3
E.GLAMORGAN	3	3	4							2	2	
GOWER			2						1	2	3	
CARMARTHEN			2	1					1			1
PEMBROKE	2		4		3	2	3		2	3	6	
CEREDIGION	1		2						1			2
BRECON				1				1	2		1	
RADNOR				5								
MONTGOMERY		1		1							2	1
MEIRIONNYDD		3	1									1
CAERNARFON	1	1	2		3			1	6	5	3	5
ANGLESEY	1		3		1					1	1	2
DENBIGH	2		1							2		
FLINT	1	1	2	1	1					1		2
2017 MONTGOMERY	2	2		1				1		1	1	1

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	106	185
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	1%

Breeding: now a very scarce bird, with six pairs on Skomer and only 1-14 pairs on the mainland. PEMBROKE: six pairs bred on Skomer; RADNOR: present at four sites; MONTGOMERY: pair at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy; MEIRIONNYDD: one pair fledged two young in North Berwyn, probable pair in Migneint and single at three other sites in April/May; CAERNARFON: present at two sites on the Migneint in April to June, and at a site in the Glyderau on 19 May; DENBIGH: probably bred near Llyn Aled Isaf; two at a site on the Migneint on 21 July (may relate to sightings in Caernarfonshire).

NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus europaeus* TROELLWR MAWR

Widespread but scarce summer visitor, now mainly dependent on clearfell areas in forestry plantations. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	75	61
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Nightjars are probably under-recorded, as birders tend to visit a small number of traditional sites. Until there is a new national survey, population trends are not accurately known.

Churring males unless otherwise stated: GWENT: 23 at 12 sites, incl. 5+ at Wentwood and proven breeding at Llanellen and Coed y Prior; E.GLAMORGAN: up to seven birds (may include females) in Llanwonno forest between 15 May and 26 July; GOWER: three at Mynydd Dinas; three at Margam Forest; three at Nant y Mynydd; singles at Mynydd Emroch, Crynant Forest, Aberpergwym Wood and Glyncorrwg; CARMARTHEN: two at Cwmduad Plantation; five in Cynghordy; PEMBROKE: migrant on St David's Head on 27 May; CEREDIGION: 12 at six sites; breeding confirmed at RSPB Ynys-hir; BRECON: two at Nant Hir, singles at Cefngwaunhynog, Twyn Brynffaldau and Bryn Bugeiliaid on 25 June; RADNOR: at 12 sites; MONTGOMERY: one at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy, but greatly under-recorded; MEIRIONNYDD: seven birds in the Gwaith Powdwr area; six at Abergynolwyn; several at Coed Vachen; CAERNARFON: up to five in Coed Gwydyr; one at Clegir, above Llanberis, on 8 June; DENBIGH: probably bred at five sites, incl. Pendinas Res. (6+ birds), Rhyd Galed - Clocaenog (eight birds), Gwynfryn (five birds) and Coed Llandegla (10 birds); FLINT: one displayed on Nercwys Mountain.

2017 MONTGOMERY: churring birds at Lake Vyrnwy and Cors Dyfi, with additional records west of Llanidloes on 19 May, at Darowen in early June and at Bwlchyddar in June.

ALPINE SWIFT *Tachymarptis melba* COBLYN YR ALPAU

Scarce visitor from Mediterranean. WBRC: 43 previous records.

PEMBROKE: one over Skomer on 19 May.

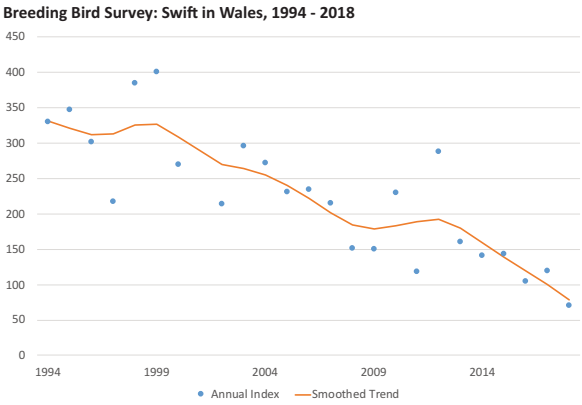
SWIFT *Apus apus* GWENNOL DDU

Widespread but declining summer visitor. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	1545	1522
% of BirdTrack lists	7%	7%

Although well recorded on passage and in suitable habitat at the right time of year, breeding records for this largely urban species are generally sparse. More complete recording of breeding locations

would help with the local protection of the species, and grants from the Welsh Ornithological Society have supported such projects in Cardiff and North Wales. The Breeding Bird Survey index shows a sustained decline (-69%) since 1994, along with Greenfinch the greatest of any species in Wales.



Breeding: GWENT: *c*.20 nests at eight locations, incl. six at Llanthony; E.GLAMORGAN: min. 14 nests at four sites – two in Maesteg, one each in Bargoed and Roath; screaming parties at seven other sites; GOWER: bred at eight sites and probably at a further two; PEMBROKE: breeding evidence from four 1-km squares; CEREDIGION: 5-6 pairs at Talybont; a few pairs at Bow Street and Eglwysfach; BRECON: probably bred in five communities (one lost to building works); MONTGOMERY: 30+ pairs at Llanfyllin Workhouse; MEIRIONNYDD: 36 nests in eight locations, incl. 11 nests in Dolgellau and 11 in Llandderfel; probably bred at 14 others; CAERNARFON: confirmed or strongly suspected at 21 sites; ANGLESEY: screaming parties in Llangefni, Benllech and Rhosneigr; DENBIGH: bred at Pendre and Hendy, Llangollen; FLINT: bred in Rhyl.

Earliest and latest dates by county:

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	25 April	Monmouth		28 Aug.	Peterstone Gout
E.GLAMORGAN	22 April	Kenfig Pool		29 Sept.	Sully Bay
GOWER	14 April	Resolven		28 Aug.	Swansea Vale West
CARMARTHEN	22 April	Llandeilo		27 Aug.	Coedbach
PEMBROKE	25 April	Skokholm		10 Aug.	Skokholm
CEREDIGION	25 April	Talybont		2 Sept.	Aberystwyth
BRECON	21 April	Wye Valley		30 Aug.	Llangorse Lake
MONTGOMERY	23 April	Welshpool			
MEIRIONNYDD	18 April	R. Dylif		18 Sept.	Llwyngwril
CAERNARFON	19 April	Bardsey		2 Sept.	Morfa Abererch
ANGLESEY	26 April	RSPB South Stack		**8 Nov.**	**Point Lynas**
DENBIGH	**11 April**	**RSPB Conwy**		27 Aug.	RSPB Conwy
FLINT	20 April	Connah's Quay NR		26 Aug.	Rhydymwyn

The late Anglesey record – and another on the island at Brynrefail on 7 Nov. – could have been Pallid Swift but neither were seen well enough, or photographed, to clinch that identification. An influx of Pallid Swifts to Britain was noted at the time.

2017 MONTGOMERY: Earliest was at Dolydd Hafren on 22 April, last at Forden Bank on 19 Aug.

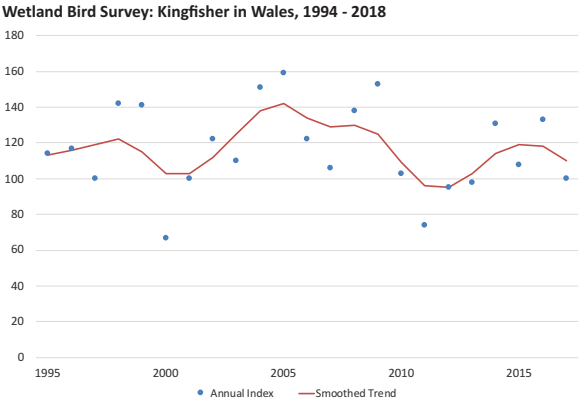
Far fewer large counts (80+) than usual: GWENT: 300 at Newport Wetlands Reserve Goldcliff on 26 May; 120 at Osbaston on 23 June and 13 July; 150 at Bedwas on 10 July; GOWER: 100+ over Eglwys Nunydd Res. on 12 May; CARMARTHEN: 80 over Penclacwydd on 21 July; 100 over Pembrey Harbour on 2 Aug.; DENBIGH: 200 at RSPB Conwy on 1 May; FLINT: 81 at Rhosesmor on 5 June.

KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis* GLAS Y DORLAN

Resident in lowland areas. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	1010	767
% of BirdTrack lists	4%	3%

Kingfishers were hit hard by icy conditions in 2010 and 2011 and had been making a slow recovery, according to the Wetland Bird Survey, but were probably caught out by the 'Beast from the East' at the start of spring. Bird reports featured only seven confirmed nests (six in south Wales), four probable and 13 possible nests.



Kingfisher (Steve Ransome)

BEE-EATER *Merops apiaster* GWYBEDOG Y GWENYN

Scarce passage migrant. WBRC: 66 previous records.

Singles: E.GLAMORGAN: Kenfig on 23 May was only the second county record; CAERNARFON: Beddgelert on 2 June.

HOOPOE *Upupa epops* COPOG

Uncommon but regular passage migrant to Wales.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	5	9
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

11 records is a typical showing. All were single birds: GOWER: Worm's Head on 2 Sept.; CARMARTHEN: Cilsan Bridge on 5 April; PEMBROKE: Pelcomb Cross on 14 April; Marloes Mere on 19-20 April; Rosemarket on 24 April; Broad Haven on 25 April; Carnffoi, Newport on 26-28 April; Strumble Head on 26 April; Abercastle on 25 Oct.; CEREDIGION: near New Quay on 3 Sept.; ANGLESEY: reported from Traeth Lligwy on 15 Oct.

WRYNECK *Jynx torquilla* PENGAM

Uncommon but regular passage migrant, chiefly to coastal counties in autumn.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	2	41
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

15 records is typical of recent years; the spring record in Cardiff was notable. All records were single birds: E.GLAMORGAN: Cardiff Bay Wetlands Reserve on 21 April; Caerau-Maesteg on 28-29 Aug.; Rhymney Great Wharf on 4 Sept.; Gabalfa on 16 Sept.; Lavernock Point on 19-22 Oct.; GOWER: Foel Penycastell on 28 Aug.; PEMBROKE: Skokholm from 31 Aug. to 12 Sept.; Deer Park on 4-12 Sept.; two at St David's Head on 7 Sept.; Rhoscrowther on 29 Sept.; Skomer, on 7-9 Sept., on 11 Sept. and on 26-28 Sept.; CAERNARFON: Cilan Head on 12 Sept.

LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dryobates minor* CNOCELL FRAITH LEIAF

Scarce and localised breeding resident, principally distributed in the lowlands and along the main river valleys. RBBP: 28 territories in 2017. Wales Red listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	16	22
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

There were no records in Caernarfonshire for the first time ever. All records, singles unless otherwise stated:

20 sites during the breeding season (March to July): GWENT: Blackwood on 5 April; E.GLAMORGAN: Fforestganol on 11 March; Cwm Darren-Maesteg on 19 April (drumming); Efail Isaf on 5 May; Bryn Celyn-Llanharry on 7 May; GOWER: bred in the Clyne Valley; PEMBROKE: drumming at Tŷ Canol on 5 May; CEREDIGION: two pairs at RSPB Ynys-hir; BRECON: 1-2 birds in Elan village during Feb.-June; Llandefaelog on 3 March; Pencelli on 10 March; pair at Trawsnant on 8 June; MONTGOMERY: drumming male at Garth Woods, Machynlleth, on 4 March; singles in gardens at Llanidloes, Machynlleth and Tregynon during cold weather in early March; MEIRIONNYDD: probably bred in Pont Croesor area; DENBIGH: one at Penycae on 2 April; FLINT: one near Rhyl on 20 July.

Non-breeding (Jan.-Feb. and Aug.-Dec): GWENT: Rhiw Farm on 6 Dec.; GOWER: Pontneddfechan on 26 Jan.; CARMARTHEN: Gwernogle on 7 Feb.; two at Llangunnor in late Dec.; BRECON: Crickhowell on 19 Feb.; MONTGOMERY: one at Powis Castle on 11 Feb.; MEIRIONNYDD: one on a garden feeder at Ynys

Crossing in early Nov.; DENBIGH: one at Marford Quarry in Jan./Feb.; FLINT: female at Rhydymwyn on 11 Nov.

2017 MONTGOMERY: one at Dolydd Hafren on 7 May.

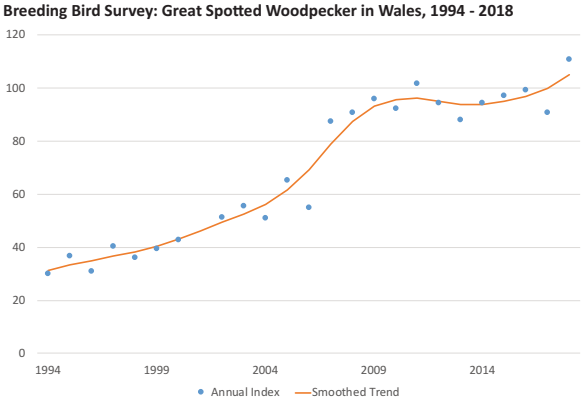
GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos major* CNOCELL FRAITH FWYAF

Common breeding resident in wooded parts of Wales. Wales Green listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	3272	3223
% of BirdTrack lists	17%	16%

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales reached a new high in 2018, having doubled since 1994.

Notable records: E.GLAMORGAN: eight at Nantgarw on 14 Jan.; ANGLESEY: one at Cemlyn on 10 Oct. was probably a migrant.

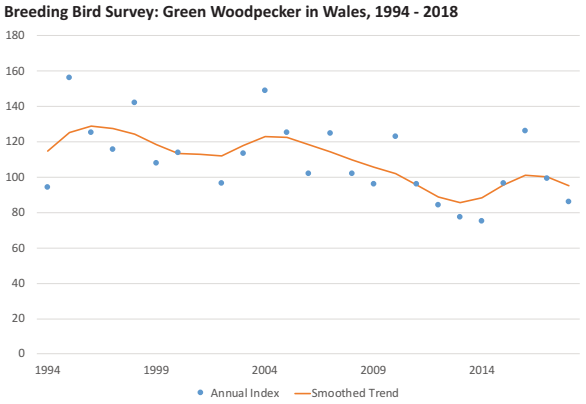


GREEN WOODPECKER *Picus viridis* CNOCELL WERDD

Once a common breeding resident throughout lowland Wales except on Anglesey. Doing well in some eastern and southern counties but declining in most western counties, and Montgomery and Radnor. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	1118	894
% of BirdTrack lists	6%	4%

Although not at its lowest level, the Breeding Bird Survey index is 20% lower than in 1994, and the slow decline – quite possibly a further contraction in range away from the west – continues.



Records in county bird reports are predominantly from south and east Wales (132 locations in E.Glamorgan, 55 in Brecon and 52 in Gower, for example, and 325 records in Gwent) but very few farther north or west: just four locations in Ceredigion (where a pair probably bred near Llanddewi Brefi), and two in Pembrokeshire (bred at Llanteg). There was no confirmed breeding in Caernarfonshire, but 1-2 were present at 13 sites

in Llŷn and at 17 sites in Snowdonia. In Meirionnydd, Green Woodpeckers probably bred in the Glaslyn/Dwyryd valleys, and possibly one pair each in the Mawddach Valley and at Broadwater. There is a small population at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy, but a record at nearby Coed Penllyn, Meirionnydd, in September was the first for the site.

KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus* CUDYLL COCH

Rather scarce breeding resident throughout Wales. Partial and passage migrant to some counties in small numbers. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	1622	1760
% of BirdTrack lists	7%	7%

Incomplete breeding information includes: GWENT: 4-5 nests, and three possible pairs; E.GLAMORGAN: seven confirmed pairs and possible/probable at four sites; CARMARTHEN: pair bred at Ffos-las; GOWER: one confirmed, one probable pair, and present at 11 possible breeding sites; PEMBROKE: pairs or juveniles at six sites; CEREDIGION: bred at New Quay (5-6 chicks); BRECON: bred in two quarries, probably at a third, and present at 10 other sites; MONTGOMERY: "increasingly scarce"; MEIRIONNYDD: bred at nine sites, probably at three and possibly at a further 12; CAERNARFON: two pairs bred, present at 27 other sites; ANGLESEY: two pairs nested at RSPB Cors Ddyga, one successfully; DENBIGH: one pair bred, two possible pairs; FLINT: one pair bred, fledging five young.

MERLIN *Falco columbarius* CUDYLL BACH

Scarce breeding resident. RBBP: 14-28 pairs in 2017. Also a passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	203	331
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	1%

Breeding season records: GWENT: female in suitable habitat at Bal Bach on 6 April; pair at Trefil on 8 April; E.GLAMORGAN: female in suitable habitat at Craig Bach-Bwlch on 26 June; BRECON: two territories occupied in the Black Mountains and one in the central Beacons; MONTGOMERY: pair bred in the south of the county; MEIRIONNYDD: three pairs fledged 6+ young (one in Arenig, two in Berwyn), plus one probable on Cadair Idris and two possible pairs elsewhere; CAERNARFON: present at three sites in the east of the county in April/May; DENBIGH: two pairs nested on Mynydd Hiraethog.

A summary of non-breeding records:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT	5	2	4	3				2	2	4	3	3
E.GLAMORGAN		2	3		1	2			4	5	1	3
GOWER	p	p	p	p				p	p	p	p	
CARMARTHEN	30 records											
PEMBROKE	4	5	11	8	4				8	16	8	5
CEREDIGION	6	2	2	2	1				4	4	5	5
BRECON	1		2					2				
MONTGOMERY												
MEIRIONNYDD	3	4	4						2	4	3	4
CAERNARFON		2	3	1					6	1	1	3
Bardsey	1	2	15	22					7	28	4	
ANGLESEY	Recorded at 13 sites during the winter periods											
DENBIGH (10 records)	1	p	p	p	p							
FLINT (45 records)	p	p	p	p			p	p	p	p	p	p

HOBBY *Falco subbuteo* HEBOG YR EHEDYDD

Scarce summer visitor and passage migrant. RBBP: 19-52 pairs in 2017. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	**102**	**109**
% of BirdTrack lists	**<1%**	**<1%**

Breeding season: 14-30 pairs. GWENT: seven pairs bred, one probable and four possible pairs; E.GLAMORGAN: pair reared three young in Vale of Glamorgan; present at five other sites; CARMARTHEN: present at four sites, probably bred at one; CEREDIGION: up to two intermittently at Cors Caron between 28 May and 6 Aug.; BRECON: bred at four sites, and possibly at two others; DENBIGH: adult and 1CY at Bodfari on 17 Sept. but unknown whether these were locally bred.

2017: E.GLAMORGAN: probable breeding pair in Vale of Glamorgan now confirmed as fledging three chicks.

Earliest and latest dates by county:

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	**19 April**	**Llanover**		23 Sept.	Newport Wetlands
E.GLAMORGAN	6 May	Llangynwyd WTW		17 Oct.	East Aberthaw
GOWER	7 June	Resolven		11 Oct.	Rhossili Down
CARMARTHEN	11 May	No location given		**21 Oct.**	**Penclacwydd**
PEMBROKE	2 May	Strumble Head		25 Sept.	Porth Clais
CEREDIGION	8 May	Clywedog		3 Sept.	Aberbanc & Llanon
BRECON	3 May	Llangorse Lake		3 Oct.	Llangasty
MEIRIONNYDD	11 June	Cwm Sian Llwyd		24 Sept.	Pont Croesor
CAERNARFON				3 Oct.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	30 April	RSPB Cors Ddyga		29 Aug.	Soar
DENBIGH	29 April	Froncysyllte		17 Sept.	Penycae
FLINT	17 May	Queensferry		13 Sept.	Pantymwyn

Approximate monthly totals of non-breeding birds:

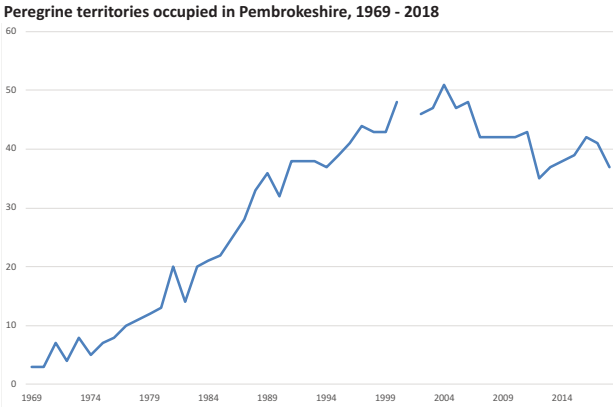
Monthly totals	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*
GWENT	1	9	9	9	8	10+	
E.GLAMORGAN		6	4	4	6	1	3
GOWER			2			2	1
CARMARTHEN	18 records						
PEMBROKE		5	5	3	1	4	
CEREDIGION		8	2	2	2	2	
BRECON							
MONTGOMERY		4	1	5	2		
MEIRIONNYDD							
CAERNARFON				1	2		1
ANGLESEY	1		1	2	2		

In addition, there were 14 records each in DENBIGH and FLINT.

PEREGRINE *Falco peregrinus* HEBOG TRAMOR

Resident breeding species in all counties, but breeding population declined 12% between 2002 and 2014 to 249 pairs following a period of recovery since the 1960s. RBBP: 104-157 pairs in 2017. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	890	1119
% of BirdTrack lists	4%	5%



Breeding: min. 111 territories occupied. Of those monitored, average productivity was 1.65 young/nesting pair.

Information from bird reports (not complete surveys except Pembrokeshire): GWENT: 15 sites occupied (five pairs monitored fledged a min. eight young); E.GLAMORGAN: 34 of 36 territories monitored were occupied, with nesting at 15 sites, fledging 24 young (SWPMG); GOWER: one pair bred; CARMARTHEN: five of eight territories occupied, at which two pairs bred (five fledged) and two pairs probably bred; PEMBROKE: min. 37 occupied territories, in which 30 pairs attempted to breed, fledging 28 young. The graph above shows that 2018 was the second poorest year since 1994; CEREDIGION: 'a few' breeding pairs reported; BRECON: 13 of 21 territories monitored were occupied (with single males at a further three), from which nine pairs raised 14-15 young; MEIRIONNYDD: four confirmed nests, one probable and three possible sites; CAERNARFON: probably bred at four sites; DENBIGH: one pair bred, another probably did so; FLINT: one pair probably bred.

Prey caught: in Gower, one caught and drowned a Little Egret at Gwenffrwd on 17 Aug.; remains at St Mary's Church tower, Brecon, included a Manx Shearwater carcass found on 26 Sept.

2017 MONTGOMERY: approximately 18 nest sites in the county.

RING-NECKED PARAKEET *Psittacula krameri* PARACIT TORCHOG

Naturalised population now well-established in parts of southern England and spreading northward, but not yet established in Wales. Category c.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	8	10
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

All records are single birds unless otherwise stated: E.GLAMORGAN: singles at eight sites around Cardiff represent a significant increase in reports, mostly during Oct. to Dec.; ANGLESEY: one visited birdfeeders in a Llangefni garden through the year; FLINT: one at Connah's Quay on 13 Nov.

2017 MONTGOMERY: one north of Guilsfield from 20 Oct. to 7 Nov.

RED-BACKED SHRIKE *Lanius collurio* CIGYDD CEFNGOCH

Rare migrant. WBRC: 79 records since 1991.

PEMBROKE: 1CY on Skomer on 18-20 Sept.; 1CY at St David's on 9 Sept.; 1CY at Dale airfield on 9-12 Sept.; CAERNARFON: females on Bardsey on 11-12 May and 2 June; DENBIGH: 1CY at Erddig, Wrexham, on 16 Sept.

DAURIAN/TURKESTAN SHRIKE *Lanius isabellinus/phoenicuroides*

CIGYDD DAWRIA/LLWYDFELEN

Rare vagrant from Caucasus/Turkestan, split from Isabelline Shrike on 1 January 2018 but first calendar year (1CY) birds cannot be separated in the field. BBRC: eight previous records in Wales.

E.GLAMORGAN: 1CY at Cosmeston Lakes CP on 17 Nov. was the first county record.

GREAT GREY SHRIKE *Lanius excubitor* CIGYDD MAWR

Scarce but annual winter visitor, occasionally recorded on passage.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	51	37
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

20 records is a typical showing. All single birds unless otherwise stated: E.GLAMORGAN: Garwnant on 27-31 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: Crychan on 20 Feb.; PEMBROKE: Pantmaenog on 9 Feb.; Plumstone Mountain on 16 March and 2 Nov.; Mynydd Craig lwyd on 28 Oct.; BRECON: edge of Glasfynydd Forest from 10 Jan. to 26 March; Usk Res. on 17 Nov.; RADNOR: four in Jan. to early April; three in Nov./Dec.; MEIRIONNYDD: Llyn y Garnedd, Tan y Bwlch, on 5 Nov.; Cynwyd on 22 Dec.; MEIRIONNYDD/DENBIGH: Bod Petryal, Clocaenog, on various dates between 17 Feb. and 9 April; DENBIGH: Llyn Brenig on 23 Nov.; Coed Llandegla on 9 Dec.

2017 MONTGOMERY: singles at Machynlleth on 12 March, at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy from 23 March to 24 April, and in the Dyfnant Forest on 10 Nov.

WOODCHAT SHRIKE *Lanius senator* CIGYDD PENGOCH

Scarce passage migrant. WBRC: 123 previous records.

PEMBROKE: Skomer on 18-21 April; CEREDIGION: Ynys Tachwedd on 24-25 Sept.

JAY *Garrulus glandarius* SGRECH Y COED

Widespread resident, common in most deciduous woodland areas, least so in western coastal fringes; scarce in west Llŷn and much of Anglesey. Autumn/winter influxes from the east occur irregularly. Wales Green listed.

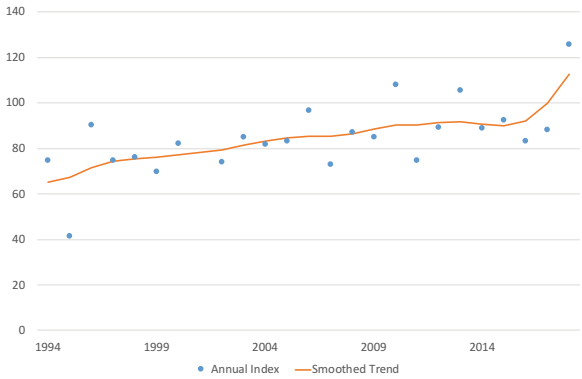
	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	2550	2571
% of BirdTrack lists	14%	13%

A big jump in the annual Breeding Bird Survey index, 43% above the previous year, takes it to the highest level yet, 49% above 1994.

Counts of 10+: GOWER: 10 at Penllergare Woods on 31 Dec.; BRECON:

flocks of 15 and eight over The Cwm on 19 April, and 16 here on 25 Sept.; MEIRIONNYDD: 12 at Cwm Maethlon on 15 Feb.; CAERNARFON: 25 at Uwchmynydd on 27 Sept.; 20 at Rhiw on 27 Sept. and 10 here on 28th; ANGLESEY: 14 at Carmel Head on 29 Sept.

Breeding Bird Survey: Jay in Wales, 1994 - 2018



MAGPIE Pica pica PIODEN

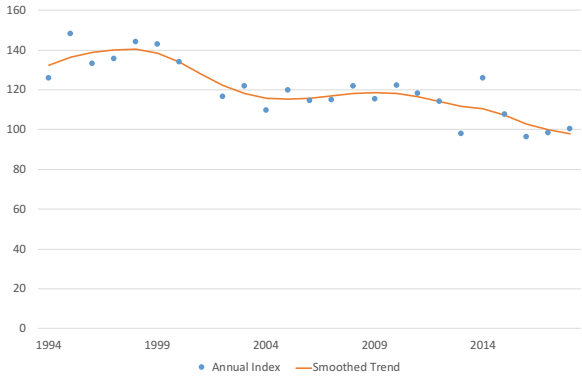
Abundant and widespread resident. Wales Green listed.

In contrast to Jay, the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales is 27% below the 1994 baseline, while the proportion of BirdTrack lists registering Magpie has fallen from 58% in 2016.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	9700	9599
% of BirdTrack lists	54%	52%

The only site with comparable breeding data is Bardsey, CAERNARFON, where 12 pairs fledged 34 young, productivity above the recent average.

Breeding Bird Survey: Magpie in Wales, 1994 - 2018



Magpie (Steve Ransome)

Counts of 20+: GWENT: 27 at Peterstone Wentlooge on 7 Feb.; 25 at Croesyceiliog on 13 Aug.; E.GLAMORGAN: 22 at Kenfig NNR on 8 Jan. and 29 here on 26 Nov.; 25 at Gartholwg Campus on 16 Jan.; 20+ at Cosmeston Lakes CP on dates in Jan., Feb., Sept. and Oct.; 40 at Lavernock Pt. on 3 Oct.; GOWER: 32 at Baglan Energy Park on 27 Nov.; CARMARTHEN: 21 at Morfa Berwig on 20 Jan.; MONTGOMERY: 30 at Dolydd Hafren on 24 Jan.; CAERNARFON: 32 at Dolgarrog on 20 Jan.; 22 near Rhiw on 7 Feb.; 39 on Bardsey in Oct.; ANGLESEY: 25 southwest of Llangefni on 19 Jan.; DENBIGH: 25 at Towyn on 7 Jan. and 31 here on 27th; 20 near Rhewl on 21 Jan.; FLINT: 64 at Connah's Quay NR on 12 Jan.

2017 MONTGOMERY: 40 at Dolydd Hafren on 31 Jan. and 53+ here on 12 Nov.

CHOUGH *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax* BRAN GOESGOCH

Resident in small numbers, mainly on cliff coasts of the western seaboard. Last UK survey found 252-278 pairs in Wales (2014). RBBP: 214-257 pairs in 2017. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	900	1268
% of BirdTrack lists	4%	6%

Breeding: numbers nesting inland, evident from a further decline in Meirionnydd, continue to decline as ungrazed upland pastures become thatchy and inundated with bracken, gorse and scrub while others become more lush, either fertilised and reseeded or cropped as silage. The mean number of young/brood ringed, the best consistent measure of breeding success, in North and mid-Wales was 2.7 for the second consecutive year, below the 2011-17 average of 2.94. However, this masks the failure of a good number of nests to a storm surge in mid April that washed into west-facing sea caves in North Wales. The cold start to spring probably impacted soil invertebrate food availability and/or quality, delaying the start of egg-laying by 7-10 days at some sites in Pembrokeshire, where the number of territories was seven fewer than the 2016 high (Haycock & Hodges 2019).

	Occupied territories	*Nests*	*Nests from which young fledged*	*Min. no of young fledged*	*Young fledged/ successful nest*
GOWER	3	One pair probably bred; other two were successful			
PEMBROKE	77	70	46	116	2.5

E.GLAMORGAN: one visited a historic nest site on 12 May; DENBIGH: bred at one site and probably at a second.

Ringing information from the Cross & Stratford Welsh Chough Project, with additional data from Bardsey Bird & Field Observatory and monitoring conducted by RSPB Cymru/Natural Resources Wales.

	Nests[1]	*Broods ringed*	*Young ringed*	*Young/brood ringed*
CEREDIGION	17-28	10	28	2.8
MEIRIONNYDD	11	3	7	2.3
CAERNARFON	87-92	34	92	2.7[2]
ANGLESEY	35-38	13	37	2.8
DENBIGH	2	1	3	3.0

1. Range shows min. (confirmed and probable pairs) to max. (with possible breeding pairs added).
2. In Caernarfonshire, mean brood sizes were calculated from full brood size where incomplete broods were ringed.

Large flocks during the breeding season (April-June): E.GLAMORGAN: six at Southerndown on 13 April; PEMBROKE: 64-80 non-breeding birds in 10 flocks up to mid May, max. 12-20 on the Castlemartin and

Angle peninsulas; MEIRIONNYDD: eight at a roost site on 14 April; CAERNARFON: 14-16 at Penmaenmawr on 6 May; 12 at Mynydd Cilan on 7 June; eight at Porth Neigwl on 12 June; eight on the Great Orme on 25 June; 11 in the Nantlle valley on 30 June; ANGLESEY: 20 at RSPB South Stack on 5 April and 21 here on 10 May.

Outside the breeding season: observations suggest that the long dry summer weather caused big problems for foraging Choughs, as soil invertebrates were difficult to access (per Adrienne Stratford).

Notable counts in Jan. to April: GOWER: 16 at Rhossili on 26 Feb.; PEMBROKE: 12 at St David's GC on 16 Jan.; CEREDIGION: 10 at Wallog on 3 Feb.; MEIRIONNYDD: six at Morfa Dyffryn on 5 Jan.; ANGLESEY: 20-24 near Penmon on 22 Jan.; 18 at RSPB South Stack on 23 Feb.; FLINT: two at Hendre, Mold, on 15 April was only the second county record in the last decade.

A co-ordinated count of roosts in North Wales in late Aug./early Sept. recorded: North CEREDIGION/MEIRIONNYDD: 31 birds at 10 locations (*cf*. 56 in 2017); CAERNARFON: 151 birds at 33 locations (*cf*. 169 in 2017); ANGLESEY: 23 birds at seven locations (*cf*. 26 in 2017).

Other counts during July to Dec.: GWENT: two on The Blorenge on 24 Aug., then at Twmbarlwm on 5-7 Sept., the first in the county since 1985; GOWER: 25 at Rhossili on 3 Aug. flew in across Carmarthen Bay and may have included birds from south Pembrokeshire; 20 at Thurba Head on 1 Sept.; PEMBROKE: 67 in five autumn roosts, incl. 25 on Ramsey, but 11 on the Angle peninsula was the only roost known to be occupied in the south of the county; MEIRIONNYDD: 15 at a roost in Aug./Sept., down from 40+ in 2016; CAERNARFON: 31 in the Nantlle Valley on 23 Aug.; 17 at Rhiw on 6 and 11-12 Sept.; 17 at Uwchmynydd on 29 Sept.; ANGLESEY: 18 at Cemlyn on 27 Sept.

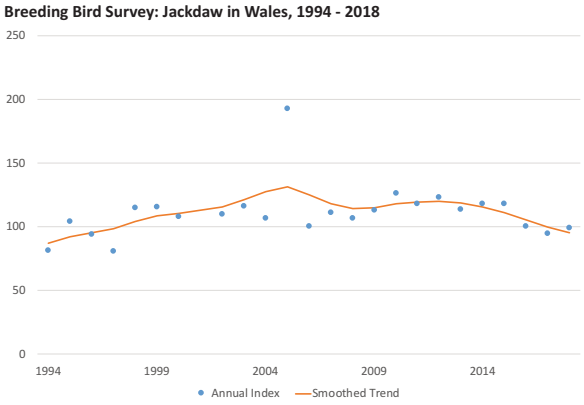
Monthly maximum counts on Bardsey, CAERNARFON:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Bardsey	13	12	25	19	34	22	21	24	21	26	24	24

JACKDAW *Coloeus monedula* JAC-Y-DO

Abundant and widespread resident. Wales Green listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	**9364**	**9245**
% of BirdTrack lists	**52%**	**50%**



Notwithstanding the 'bump' in 2005, the Breeding Bird Survey index has been very stable, 9% above its 1994 level, although it has fallen 17% in the last five years.

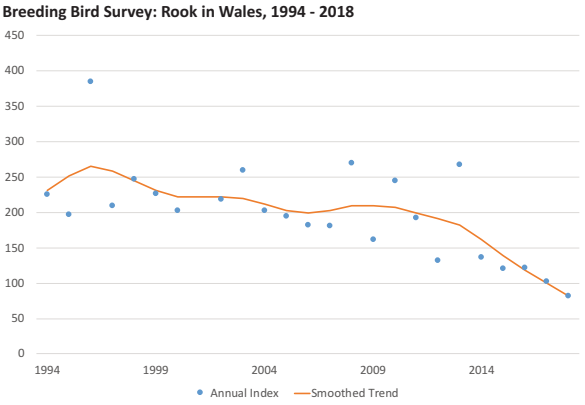
Max. monthly counts from sites holding 300 or more at least once: GWENT: 500 in the Brynmawr area in the first winter period; 800 around Beaufort on 14 July; 420 at Osbaston on 4 Dec.; 3000 at Great Traston Meadows, Newport, on

21 Dec.; E.GLAMORGAN: 300 at Bargoed on 7 Jan.; 1200 over Pant-yr-Awel at dusk on 7 Jan., 1000 here on 11th and 2300 on 17th; 300 at Llandough on 29 Jan.; 600 at E. Porthcawl on 30 Jan.; 400 at Bargoed and max. 1200 at Pant-yr-Awel in Feb. and up to 2000 in a pre-roost flock at the latter site in March; 450 at W. Aberthaw on 19 Oct.; 300 at Cwm Bach-Wick on 21 Oct.; *c.*1000 at Lavernock Pt. on 5 Nov., 400+ here on 6th and 300 on 15th; 500+ at Llanishen/Lisvane Res. on 20 Nov.; *c.*800 at Bridgend Station on 23 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: 400 at Machynys GC on 11 Jan.; *c.*2500 in Llanelli on 16 July; GOWER: regular pre-roost flocks of up to 1500 over Briton Ferry/Baglan and *c.*1000 birds over Neath town centre in both winter periods, incl. 2000+ here on 7 July and *c.*3000 on 23 Nov.; *c.*1100 over Margam Road on 26 Sept.; PEMBROKE: 500 at the Gann estuary on 19 Aug. and 1500 here on 21 Oct.; 500 at Lydstep on 18 Sept.; 1000 at Dale airfield on 29 Oct.; CEREDIGION: 557 at Ynyslas on 15 Oct., 725 here on 17th and 2102 on 22nd, all passing south; BRECON: 400 at Rhydywernen Farm, Brecon, on 19 Sept.; CAERNARFON: 330 at Hafod Lane, Bangor, on 27 Jan.; 333 on Bardsey on 15 Oct., 1495 here on 28th and 1216 on 30th; ANGLESEY: *c.*1000 roosted at Llyn Cefni on 14 Jan. and *c.*2000 here on 10 Oct.; FLINT: 450 near Rhuddlan on 20 Feb.

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus* YDFRAN

Widespread resident, breeding mainly below 300m. asl. The count unit is apparently occupied nests

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	2106	2177
% of BirdTrack lists	11%	12%



(AON). Wales Green listed.

For the second consecutive year, the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales reached its lowest point since the scheme began, 60% below its 1994 level, a story that remains under most birder's radar. The scale of decline was one reason that Natural Resources Wales removed Rook from the General Licence in 2019. It is an obvious species for local bird clubs to organise counts, as achieved by Gower Ornithological Society, whose monitoring showed a 9% decline in just one year (and 14% in two years).

Breeding: GWENT: *c.*200 AON in 14 rookeries; E.GLAMORGAN: 583 AON at 24 rookeries (plus one not counted); largest 79 by A48 at St Nicholas West; GOWER: 528 AON at 30 rookeries (plus five previously used sites with no nests); largest 56 nests at Lagadranta Farm; PEMBROKE: breeding evidence in 18 1-km squares; BRECON: 217 AON at nine rookeries; largest 55 at Priory Groves, Brecon; MEIRIONNYDD: 165 AON at four rookeries; largest 83 at Frongoch; CAERNARFON: 152 AON at eight rookeries; largest 34 at Coed Bron-garth; three other colonies not counted.

Counts of 100+ away from rookeries: GOWER: *c.*100 at Llanrhidian on 25 Nov.; PEMBROKE: 270 at Lydstep on 16 Feb.; 330 at Broad Haven on 20 May; MONTGOMERY: *c.*100 at Dolydd Hafren on 28 Feb.; 120 at Llandinam GPs on 14 Dec.; CAERNARFON: 120 at Penrhyn Mawr, Aberdaron, on 10 June; 140 at

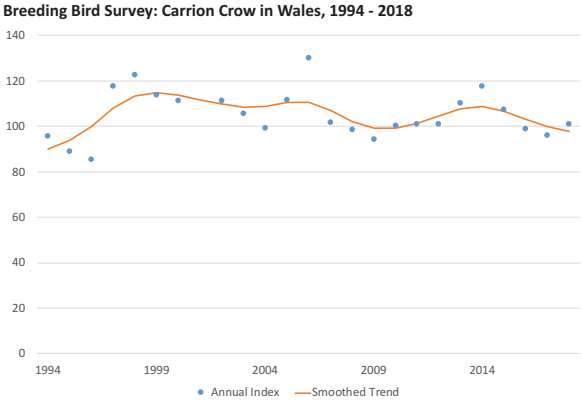
Meillionydd Mawr, Rhiw, on 2 Oct.; 450 at Aberdaron on 11 July; ANGLESEY: *c.*200 at Traeth Dulas on 7 Jan.; *c.*200 roosted at Llyn Cefni on 14 Jan.; DENBIGH: 100+ at Burton on 8 Oct.; 100+ at Sutton Green on 31 Dec.; FLINT: 150 at Cilcain on 12 Sept.

2017 errata
E.GLAMORGAN: a substantial number of records were missed from the East Glamorgan Bird Report. The correct total should have been 496 AON at 17 rookeries (largest 67 at East Aberthaw).

CARRION CROW *Corvus corone* BRAN DYDDYN

Abundant resident and partial migrant throughout Wales. Wales Green listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	12628	12279
% of BirdTrack lists	70%	68%



The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales has been fairly steady since the late 1990s.

The only site with comparable breeding information is Bardsey, CAERNARFON, where the population declined to nine pairs, matching the 10-year average.

Counts of 100+: GWENT: 101 at Llanwenarth on 1 Jan.; 100 around Osbaston on 20 April; E.GLAMORGAN: 500 at Lavernock Pt. on 17 Oct.; 100 leaving the Blaencanaid roost with Ravens on 5 July and 150 here on 5 Aug.; GOWER: 130+ over Gelli March Farm on 5 July; 116 on Whiteford beach on 13 July; *c.*330 at Llanrhidian roost on 17 Nov.; 100+ at Blackpill in 10 of 12 months, max. 233 in May; MONTGOMERY: 100+ at Dolydd Hafren on 4 July; CARMARTHEN: 160 at Kidwelly Quay on 8 June and 350 here on 10 July; CEREDIGION: 450 at pre-roost gathering on the Dyfi sandflats in Nov. and Dec.; CAERNARFON: 102 on Bardsey on 15 Oct.

HOODED CROW *Corvus cornix* BRAN LWYD

Irregular wanderer to Wales, mainly in winter and most frequently to coastal areas. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	72	68
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Around 30 birds, far fewer than last year's estimated 50. Single birds: GWENT: one, which had been present for some several months if not longer, was confirmed at Parc Llettis, Penpergwm, from 14 Oct. to the year end, the first county record since 1992; PEMBROKE: Cause Way Plantation on 30 March; Pencarnan campsite on 24-26 April; Marloes on 30 April; St David's Head on 1-9 May; Ramsey on 14 June; Treseissylit on 22 June; Angle from 28 July to 12 Aug.; Rhoscrowther on 7 Aug.; St Ann's Head on 6 Oct.; Skokholm on 18 Oct.; Marloes on 11 Nov.; Gann estuary on 17 Nov. to 29 Dec.; CAERNARFON: Bardsey on 24 March; Tregarth on 26 March; Nefyn on 7 April; Bardsey on four dates in April; Great Orme on 9 May; Bardsey on four dates in Oct.; ANGLESEY: RSPB South Stack from 1 April

throughout spring; Hen Borth on 4 May and at Cemlyn later in the month and again on 29 Oct.; Lleiniog beach on 26 July.

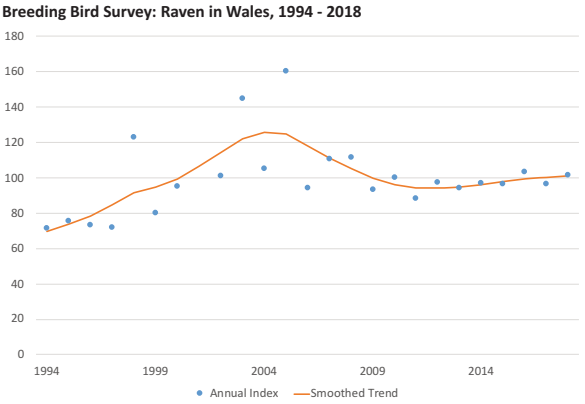
Multiple records: CAERNARFON: two on Bardsey on two dates in April, and three here on 26th; ANGLESEY: three at RSPB South Stack on 12 May could have included hybrids; two at Hen Borth on 9 Sept. and Carmel Head on 7 Oct.

Probable or certain hybrids (x Carrion Crow), all singles: CAERNARFON: Foryd on 20 Jan.; Coedydd Aber on 1 April; Bardsey on 22 Oct.; Trefriw on 30 Dec.; ANGLESEY: Ynys Llanddwyn on 6 Jan. and 10 Oct.; at RSPB South Stack in spring, paired with a Carrion Crow; FLINT: Rhyl on several dates in July.

RAVEN *Corvus corax* CIGFRAN

Resident throughout Wales. Numbers are very high in many of the uplands and coastal-cliff areas. Wales Green listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	4200	4435
% of BirdTrack lists	21%	22%



Raven numbers monitored by the Breeding Bird Survey are on a slow increase, interrupted only by a rather inexplicable boost and decline in the previous decade. Natural Resources Wales issued a licence permitting up to five Ravens to be killed to protect sheep in spring 2018, but it is reported that no birds were killed. NRW had issued licences to kill up to 50 Ravens to protect sheep and up to 25 to protect Pheasants in 2016, but no licences were issued in 2017 (information via Rob Sheldon **https://www.rdsconservation.com/?p=852**).

Breeding of note: CAERNARFON: several pairs nested in trees, a practice that is slowly increasing; DENBIGH: 16 young fledged from six nesting attempts near Llangollen (2.67 chicks/nest).

Roost counts (max.):

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
E.GLAMORGAN												
Blaencanaid	102	53	46	97	254	340	324	203	266	45	136	65
ANGLESEY												
Newborough Forest	500											300

Counts of 10+: GWENT: 15 at Llangybi on 12 Jan.; 10 at Aberbeeg on 31 March; 20+ at Blaenyoy on 27 Aug.; E.GLAMORGAN: 30 near Llanbethery on 30 Aug.; CARMARTHEN: 24 at Talley on 17 Jan.; GOWER: 10 at Clyne on 23 June; *c*.35 at Llanrhidian on 30 Dec.; PEMBROKE: 54 on Skomer on 9 Sept.; 50 at Mynydd Craig-lwyd on 2-9 Dec.; BRECON: 16 over Battle Hill forestry on 27 Aug.; max. 50 in Oct., attracted to 6-8

dead sheep, near The Cwm; 17 over Cnwch Wood on 19 Oct.; MONTGOMERY: 35 at Llandinam GPs on 3 Dec. and 61 here on 14th; MEIRIONNYDD: 12 at Cwm Maethlon on 18 Feb.; CAERNARFON: 27 at Mynydd Rhiw on 26 Feb. and 20 here on 1 March; 12 on the Great Orme on 5 April; 32 at Blaen y Coed, Migneint, on 4 Sept.; 14 at Lôn Las, Rhiw, on 9 and 12 Sept.; 10 at Uwchmynydd on 5 Nov.; on Bardsey, 20 on 21 Feb., 24 on 7 March and 18 on 28th, 20 on 24-25 Sept. and 34 on 3 Oct.; ANGLESEY: 100 roosted near Llanddyfnan on 22 Nov.; DENBIGH: four records, incl. 17 roosting at Llechrydau on 7 Jan. and 11 at Bryneglwys on 8 April.

WAXWING *Bombycilla garrulus* CYNFFON SIDAN

Scarce winter visitor.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	269	6
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

The two Denbighshire records proved to be the only ones anywhere in Wales during the whole of winter 2017-18, and the four on 28-30 Oct. include three that could conceivably have been the same individual.

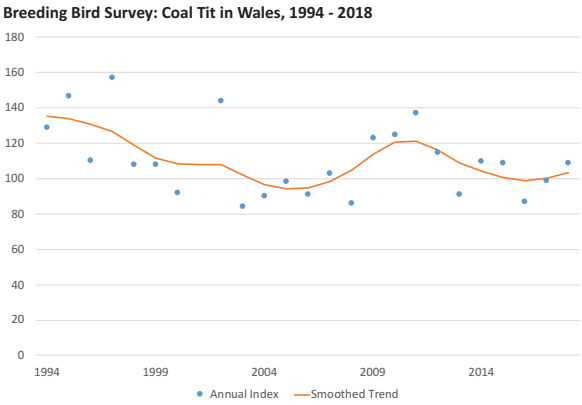
First winter period: DENBIGH: one at Towyn on 9 Jan.; one at Nant-y-Glyn on 21 Jan.

Second winter period, all single birds: CAERNARFON: Penrhyn Bay on 28 Oct.; Bardsey on 28 Oct.; Llandudno on 30 Oct.; DENBIGH: RSPB Conwy on 30 Oct.

COAL TIT *Periparus ater* TITW PENDDU

Widespread and fairly common resident. Most numerous in conifer woodlands. Wales Green listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	3571	3496
% of BirdTrack lists	19%	18%



The trend in Breeding Bird Survey indices varies considerably across the UK, but that for Wales has fallen the most, by 25% since 1994, perhaps reflecting a change in forestry management away from large blocks of plantation conifers.

Counts of 10+ include several autumn movements in the first two weeks of October: GWENT: 10 at Cross Keys on 24 March; 10 at Pontywaun on 28 April; 18 at Cleddon Falls, Llandogo, on 12 Nov.; E.GLAMORGAN: 16 in Meiros Valley, Llanharan, on 14 Jan. and 22 March; 19 at Garwnant on 19 March; 10+ at Lavernock Point on 18 Oct.; 17 at Edwardsville Woods on 21 Dec.; 15 at Onllywn on 31 Dec.; GOWER: 23+ at Margam Park on 25 Nov.; *c.*20 fed on beech mast in Briton Ferry Woods on 2 Dec.; CAERNARFON: 10+ on the Great Orme on 11 Oct.; at least 47 birds on Bardsey on 6 Oct.; DENBIGH: five records of 10+.

Birds showing characteristics of ***P.a.ater*** **('Continental Coal Tit' / Titw Penddu y Cyfandir)**

CAERNARFON: two on Bardsey on 14 May were the first documented records for Wales, and came in the wake of an unseasonal spring influx to the east coast of Britain.

MARSH TIT *Poecile palustris* TITW'R WERN

Resident species, strongly sedentary, widespread but patchily distributed in the eastern half of Wales and in Pembrokeshire. Scarce or absent in other western and northern areas. Declining across its range. Wales Red listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	295	296
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%

14 confirmed nests and 54 probable/possible nesting pairs is an increase on reports in 2017, and unlike last year included several in north Wales.

Breeding season (mid-April to June): GWENT: records from 15 sites, incl. a brood reared in a Dormouse box at St Dial's Wood, Monmouth; fledged young in Dale's Wood; 1CY ringed in a Penallt garden in Aug.; and a family party near Osbaston in Sept.; four territorial males along the east shore of Llandegfedd Res.; E.GLAMORGAN: probably nested near Wenvoe Quarry; present at three other sites; GOWER: probably bred at Oxwich Marsh, where two females with feathered brood patches were caught on 14 July; PEMBROKE: reported in 30 1-km squares and breeding proven in five; CEREDIGION: at four sites, incl. two pairs at Bettws Bledrys; BRECON: singing birds at eight sites, bred successfully at two and probably at a third; two territorial pairs in Blaen Llynfi Castle Woods; three pairs nest-prospecting in Coed Nant Bran; pair at Llwyncyntefyn Bridge; three at feeders at The Cwm in April; two territories at Sarnau pools; MEIRIONNYDD: one at Bod Petryal, Clocaenog, on 17 May; CAERNARFON: one at Coed-ty Res. prospecting a nest site; DENBIGH: recently fledged young at Erddig, Wrexham, on 15 July; FLINT: single at a site in May.

Non-breeding season, all single birds unless otherwise stated: GWENT: 55 records of 1-2 birds, over half of which were in the lower Wye and lower Monnow valleys; E.GLAMORGAN: 11 sites; GOWER five sites, and 1-2 regular at garden feeders at Killay and Upper Killay; CARMARTHEN: seven sites; CEREDIGION: five sites; BRECON: 1-2 birds at 14 locations in first winter period; 1-3 at 10 locations in the second winter period; MEIRIONNYDD: four at Coed Lletywalter, Llanbedr, on 19 Aug.; one at Coed Foel Emoel on 2 Nov.; CAERNARFON: four sites; DENBIGH: in 14 1-km squares; FLINT: in five 1-km squares.

WILLOW TIT *Poecile montana* TITW'R HELYG

Thinly distributed resident, most frequent in south and east Wales and absent from most of northwest Wales. RBBP: 72 pairs in 2017. Declining across its range. Wales Red listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	72	83
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

19 confirmed pairs and 54 probable/possible pairs during the breeding season (April to June): E.GLAMORGAN: bred at Garwnant; singing birds or pairs at five other sites; GOWER: one at Resolven on 21 April; 1CY caught at Oxwich Marsh on 27 July; CARMARTHEN: pair bred at Penclacwydd; PEMBROKE: family of five at Llandilo on 1 Sept. was only proven breeding; single at Pengelli on 28 May; four at Rosebush on 15 June; two at TyRhig on 29 June; three at Pantmaenog on 30 June; CEREDIGION: bred at Cors Caron; two at Denmark Farm in May; present at Waun Garthenor, Betts Bledrws and Cross Inn Forest; BRECON: probable family party of four at Pont ar Wysg on 11 Aug.; 1CY at Llaneglwys Wood on 25 Aug.; MONTGOMERY: 19 territories recorded at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy but a radio-tracking project and a high number of 1CY birds seen later in the year suggests an additional 11 territories; MEIRIONNYDD: pair bred in Abergynolwyn Forest; DENBIGH: one singing in April and three records in

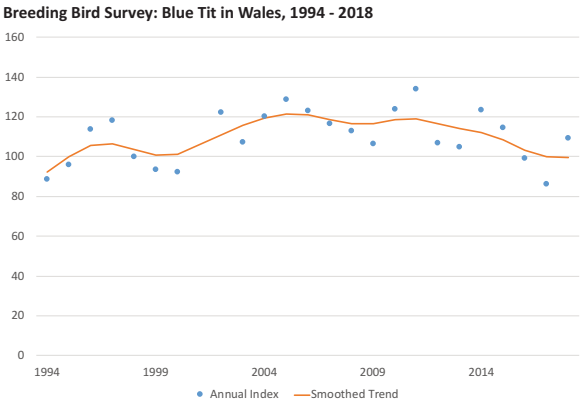
June/July from two sites in Clocaenog Forest and at Llyn Brenig; FLINT: one at Gronant.

Outside the breeding season (singles unless otherwise stated): E.GLAMORGAN: seven sites; GOWER: Pwll Du on 19 Feb.; CARMARTHEN: nine sites; PEMBROKE: two at Trecwn on 19 Feb. and singles here on 7 and 28 Oct.; Teifi Marshes on 2 Sept.; two at Glyn Aeron on 27 Dec.; four at TyRhig on 18 Oct.; Mynachlogddu from 26 Aug. to end of the year; CEREDIGION: two at Denmark Farm; singles at four other sites; BRECON: nine sites, incl. two at Glasfynydd Forest in Feb. and three near Usk Res. hide in Nov.; MEIRIONNYDD: Dyfi Junction on 28 Jan.; two at Pantperthog on 25 March; ANGLESEY: RSPB Cors Ddyga on 24 Oct.; DENBIGH: two at Bontuchel on 16 Feb.; FLINT: Cadole, Mold, in July.

BLUE TIT *Cyanistes caeruleus* TITW TOMOS LAS

Abundant resident species, most numerous in deciduous woodland but not restricted to this preferred habitat, especially in winter when it is more numerous. Unusual on the Welsh islands. Wales Green listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	9678	9819
% of BirdTrack lists	53%	53%



The Breeding Bird Survey index in Wales has fallen 21% in just the last five years, although an upward tick between 2017 and 2018 brings the trend equal to its 1995 level.

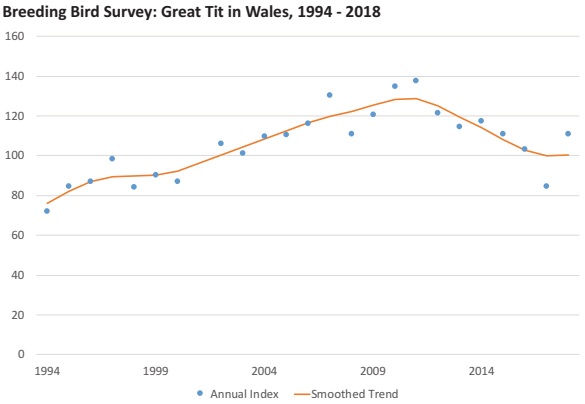
Breeding information for specific study areas suggests much lower productivity (5.87 fledged young/nest, *cf*. 7.33/nest in 2017): GOWER: 50 pairs at Cwm Clydach produced eggs from which 43 pairs fledged 314 young (6.3 young/nest, *cf.* 4.8 in 2017); CARMARTHEN: 32 territories at Penclacwydd, of which 20 used nest boxes, fledging 115 young (5.75 young/nest); BRECON: of 17 boxes at WTSWW Coed Dyrysiog (Soar), 10 held Blue Tits. Mean clutch size was 9.4 eggs, 83% hatched and 77% fledged young; four boxes above Ystradowen held 33 chicks with an average brood size of 8.25 young; MEIRIONNYDD: four boxes at Coed Crafnant held 40 eggs, producing 39 chicks which all fledged (9.75 young/nest); at Gwaith Powdwr, 14 boxes held 119 eggs, 103 chicks and fledged 96 young (6.85/nest); DENBIGH & FLINT: 85 boxes at eight sites held 691 eggs of which 517 hatched and 443 young fledged (5.21 young/nest).

Ringing: GOWER: 558 caught/ringed at Oxwich Marsh during the year, incl. 88 on 28 Dec.

GREAT TIT *Parus major* TITW MAWR

Widespread and numerous species throughout Wales up to approximately 500m above sea level. Unusual on the Welsh islands. Wales Green listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	7400	7241
% of BirdTrack lists	40%	39%



The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales has shown a 28% decline since 2010 and the BirdTrack reporting rate has also been falling. The demographic trends across the UK are almost entirely negative, with reductions in clutch and brood size since the late 1960s, and 38% fewer juveniles relative to the number of adults (from Constant Effort Site ringing) since 1984.

Breeding information for specific study areas indicates a productive breeding season (mean 4.43 fledged young/nest) but lower than in 2017 (5.32 fledged young/nest): GOWER: 22 pairs at Cwm Clydach produced eggs, from which 13 pairs fledged 78 young (mean 3.5/nest, *cf.* 5.0 in 2017); CARMARTHEN: 12 territories at Penclacwydd of which nine pairs used nestboxes, fledging 49 young; MEIRIONNYDD: three occupied boxes at Coed Crafnant held 26 eggs and fledged 20 young; at Gwaith Powdwr, nine boxes held 59 eggs, hatched 52 chicks, all of which fledged; DENBIGH & FLINT: 70 boxes at seven sites held 448 eggs, from which 349 hatched and 302 young fledged (mean 4.31 young/nest).

BEARDED TIT *Panurus biarmicus* TITW BARFOG

Breeds at Newport Wetlands Reserve; otherwise a rare autumn and winter visitor to reedbed areas. RBBP: seven pairs in 2017. WBRC: 13 previous records away from Gwent and East Glamorgan. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	27	11
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Breeding: GWENT: six territories at Newport Wetlands Reserve Uskmouth, with two 1CY birds seen on 19 May and on 27 July.

Max. monthly counts at Newport Wetlands Reserve, Uskmouth:

Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
4	2	11	4	10	2	2	3	2	9	2	2

Non-breeding: E GLAMORGAN: three at Cosmeston Lakes CP on 29-30 Sept.; two at Cardiff Bay Wetland Reserve from 30 Oct. to 4 Dec.

WOODLARK *Lullula arborea* EHEDYDD Y COED

Former breeding species; occurs in small numbers each winter.

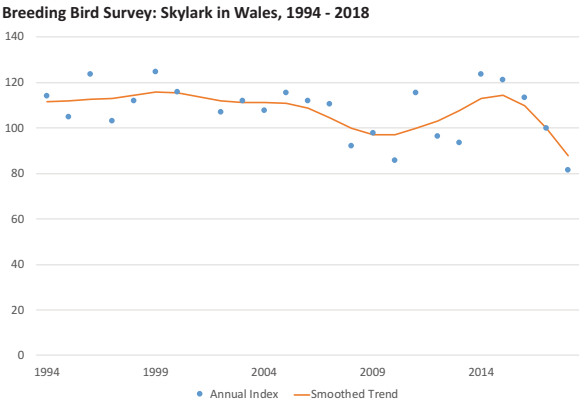
	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	1	14
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Non-breeding: a small autumn passage was evident between 10 and 19 Oct., with 12 in East Glamorgan and two over Bardsey during this period: E.GLAMORGAN: one at Cosmeston Lakes CP on 19 April; one over Dunraven on 10 Oct.; four at Nash Point on 10 Oct.; one over Lavernock Point on 16 Oct., another on 17 Oct. and four flew east here on 18 Oct.; one at Gileston on 19 Oct.; one over Cosmeston Lakes CP on 5 Nov. probably same seen several minutes later over Lavernock Point; two at Lavernock Point on 6 Nov.; CAERNARFON: singles over Bardsey on 7 and 15 Oct.

SKYLARK *Alauda arvensis* EHEDYDD

Widespread but declining breeding species; abundant passage migrant in autumn and winter. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	2354	2399
% of BirdTrack lists	12%	12%



A significant fall (-18%) between 2017 and 2018 takes the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales to its lowest point, but prior to this the trend had been relatively stable, so hopefully this is only a blip.

Large counts (100+): E.GLAMORGAN: 200 at Lavernock Point on 18 Sept.; 120 northeast over Sully Island on 18 Sept.; 100 at Ogmore est. on 14 Oct.; 100+ at Gileston on 19 Oct.; GOWER: 260+ east into a snowstorm along Aberavon promenade on 18 March; 100 west over Rhossili Bay on 1 Oct.; CARMARTHEN: 105 at Penlan Uchaf on 19 Feb.; PEMBROKE: 300 at Dale on 29 Oct.; 231 on Skokholm on 7 Oct. and 223 here on 30th; 150 at Dinas Mountain on 18 Oct.; 200 at Dale on 26 Dec.; CEREDIGION: 119 south over Ynyslas on 6 Oct. and 292 here on 15 Oct.; 150 at Llanon in Sept. and Oct.; CAERNARFON: 197 over Bardsey on 29 Sept., 199 here on 3 Oct., 457 on 7th, 401 on 15th and 244 on 17th; ANGLESEY: 170 on stubble south of Llyn Maelog on 16 Feb.; FLINT: 312 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 3 January when a spring tide forced birds off the saltmarsh.

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia* GWENNOL Y GLENNYDD

Locally common breeding visitor, most numerous in eastern counties. Passage migrant in spring and autumn. The count unit is apparently occupied nests (AON). Wales Green listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	1416	1088
% of BirdTrack lists	7%	5%

Breeding colonies (AON): GWENT: two colonies, one of 11 AON, the other not counted; E.GLAMORGAN: seven small colonies; birds prospected holes in the wall of the old ironworks at Merthy Tydfil (see photograph); GOWER: 105-108 AON at 15 sites, the largest on the

Sand Martin (Paul Joy)

R.Tawe at Ynysforgan and Pontardawe (29 nests); CARMARTHEN: 125 AON at five colonies on the R.Tywi between Carmarthen and Llandovery; PEMBROKE: bred in three 1-km squares; BRECON: 280 AON along the R.Usk between Scethrog and Pencelli; colonies at Pont-ar-Wysg and Nantmadog Farm; feeding birds suggests colonies on the R.Caerfanell near Talybont Res., near the confluence of the R.Wye and R.Elan, and near Claerwen Dam; MEIRIONNYDD: 97 AON in sand dune opposite Mochras Harbour; 10 AON at Cynwyd in holes in Dyfrdwy bridge wall; 100 birds near Tonfanau Cliffs, and birds near former colonies at Pont y Gain at The Ranges and around Pen y Bryn, Mawddach, suggested continued occupancy; CAERNARFON: 20 birds at a colony in Morfa Pentowyn, Llangennan; 4-5 AON by Afon Daron at Aberdaron; 12 AON at Pistyll; 30 birds at Porth Neigwl; ANGLESEY: 45 AON at Traeth Lligwy; DENBIGH: bred at one site and probably at another four; FLINT: possibly bred at two sites.

Earliest and latest dates by county:

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	13 March	Newport Wetlands Reserve		29 Sept.	Newport Wetlands Reserve
E.GLAMORGAN	12 March	Cardiff Bay & Cosmeston Lakes		**15 Oct.**	**East Aberthaw**
GOWER	18 April	R.Tawe, Swansea Vale West		18 Sept.	Eglwys Nunydd Reservoir
CARMARTHEN	15 March	Carmarthen		9 Aug.	Penrhyngwyn Pond
PEMBROKE	12 March	Teifi Marshes		27 Sept.	Skokholm
CEREDIGION	12 March	Teifi estuary/marsh		25 Sept.	Ynyslas
BRECON	**11 March**	**Llangorse Lake**		25 Aug.	Llangorse Lake
MONTGOMERY	15 March	Dolydd Hafren		9 Sept.	Dolydd Hafren
RADNOR	**11 March**	**no location provided**		21 Sept.	no location provided
MEIRIONNYDD	20 March	Ynys Saltings & Dyfi Junction		6 Sept.	Arthog
CAERNARFON	5 April	Morfa Nefyn & Bardsey		28 Sept.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	16 March	The Range		22 Sept.	Point Lynas
DENBIGH	**11 March**	**RSPB Conwy**		27 Aug.	RSPB Conwy
FLINT	12 March	Rhyl Brickfields LNR		29 Aug.	Connah's Quay NR

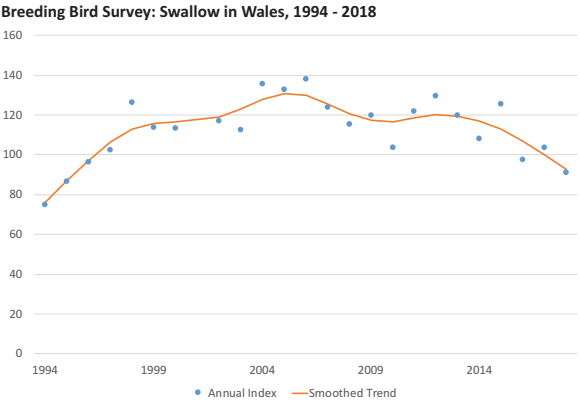
Large counts (100+): GWENT: 250 at Newport Wetlands Reserve on 27 May, 100 here on 10 and 14 July,

and 300 on 15th; 120 at Llanfihangel Gobion on 21 July; E.GLAMORGAN: 100 at Rhymney Great Wharf on 27 Aug., 300 here on 31st, 100 on 6 Sept. and 250 on 14th; 3000 at Lavernock Point on 5 Sept., 7,000 on 28th, 900 on 3 Oct. and 100 here on 15th; *c.*250 at East Aberthaw and 500 at Cosmeston Lakes CP on 28 Sept.; GOWER: 150+ over Kenfig rivermouth on 8 July; 150+ over Eglwys Nunydd Res. on 23 Aug.; 600+ east over R.Neath Marsh near Red Jacket Pill in one hour on 4 Sept.; CARMARTHEN: 100 at Ashpits Ponds on 4 April; *c.*250 at Caedelyn Farm, Llanedi, on 6 July; *c.*100 at Cefn Sidan on 13 July; *c.*300 at Penclacwydd on 26 July; PEMBROKE: 120 at Teifi Marshes on 13 April; 235 on Skokholm on 31 Aug.; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: 200 over the Teifi estuary on 3 April; CEREDIGION: 150 at RSPB Ynys-hir in Sept.; BRECON: 270 at Llangorse Lake on 7 April, 200 here on 11th, 500 on 30th and 800 on 3 May; 150 in Llangasty reedbeds on 12 July; MONTGOMERY: 100+ at Dolydd Hafren on 7 May and 18 July; CAERNARFON: 100 at Morfa Nefyn on 20 April; DENBIGH: 100 at RSPB Conwy on 12 April; 100 at Gresford Flash on three dates in April.

SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica* GWENNOL

Widely distributed and common summer visitor, and passage migrant. Wales Green listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	5273	4828
% of BirdTrack lists	27%	24%



The gradual downward trend in the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales continues, down 32% from its 2005 peak, although the index remains above its 1994 level. Egg-laying date is 11 days earlier than in the late 1960s, though whether this is related to the 30% increase in nest failure rate at the chick stage is unclear

The only comparable nesting data came from: CAERNARFON: nine pairs nested

Earliest and latest dates by county:

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	17 March	Newport Wetlands Reserve		20 Oct.	Newport Wetlands Reserve
E.GLAMORGAN	20 March	Merthyr Mawr		19 Oct.	Lavernock Point
GOWER	18 March	Oxwich Marsh		15 Oct.	Margam
CARMARTHEN	2 April	Sandy Water Park		17 Oct.	Machynys
PEMBROKE	27 March	Teifi Marshes		26 Oct.	Skokholm
CEREDIGION	27 March	Teifi estuary		15 Oct.	Ynyslas
BRECON	**13 March**	**Newbridge-on-Wye**		13 Oct.	Llangorse Lake
MONTGOMERY	4 April	Dolydd Hafren & Llyn Coed y Dinas			
RADNOR	28 March	no location provided		26 Oct.	no location provided
MEIRIONNYDD	20 March	Dolgellau		25 Sept.	Aberdysynni
CAERNARFON	2 April	Bardsey		**25 Nov.**	**Felinheli**
ANGLESEY	5 April	Cemlyn		22 Nov.	Rhosneigr
DENBIGH	3 April	RSPB Conwy		6 Oct.	Wrexham
FLINT	3 April	Rhuddlan		14 Oct.	Connah's Quay NR

on Bardsey, the lowest total since 2003 and 43.8% lower than the 10-year mean; DENBIGH: 35 nesting attempts at four sites resulted in only 113 fledged young (3.23/nest).

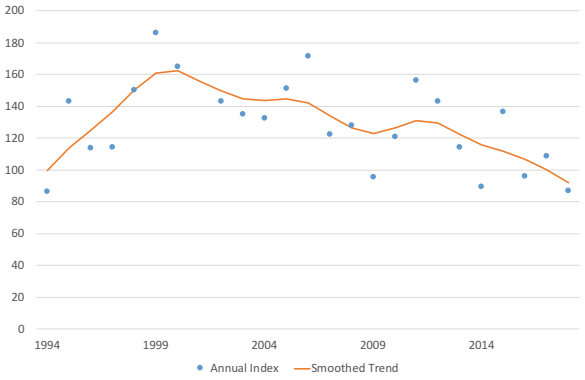
Large counts (300+) on autumn passage: GWENT: 400 at Newport Wetlands Reserve Goldcliff on 26 May; E.GLAMORGAN: 300 at Rhymney Great Wharf on 31 Aug.; 3000 at Lavernock Point on 5 Sept., 7000 here on 28 Sept. and 900 on 3 Oct.; 500 at Cosmeston Lakes CP on 28 Sept.; GOWER: 300+ over Eglwys Nunydd Res. on 26 Aug.; 800+ east over R.Neath marsh on 4 Sept.; *c*.300 east over Margam Park in 15 minutes on 5 Sept.; PEMBROKE: 500 at Bosherton on 27 Sept.; 300 at Gann estuary on 27 Sept.; 5308 over Skokholm on 23 Sept., 4640 on 24th and 909 on 27th; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: 1000 over Teifi estuary on 12 July; CEREDIGION: 500 at Ynyslas in Sept.; BRECON: up to 300 over the R.Usk at Pencelli on 4 Sept.; hundreds of mixed hirundines near Brynic on 25 Sept.; MEIRIONNYDD: hundreds into Tonfanau reedbeds on 1 Sept.; CAERNARFON: 815 at Lon Las, Rhiw, on 13 Sept.; 2151 east over Morfa Abererch on 25 Sept.; 245 over Bardsey on 4 Aug., 585 on 30th, 732 on 31st, 2525 on 6 Sept. and 2271 on 17th; ANGLESEY: 400 at Cemlyn on 31 Aug.

Ringing: GOWER: 389 1CY and 101 adults were caught during summer/autumn at Oxwich Marsh.

HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbicum* GWENNOL Y BONDO

Summer visitor, well distributed and locally common. The count unit is apparently occupied nests (AON). Wales Green listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	2466	2505
% of BirdTrack lists	12%	12%



Having reached a peak in 2000, the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales has been falling throughout this century, now to its lowest ever level.

Breeding: GWENT: 10 AON at Llanwern steelworks; 5 AON at Maesybevan; 10 AON at five other sites; E.GLAMORGAN: nested at 15 locations incl. 5-6 cliff-nesting pairs in Cwm Bach valley, 18 AON on Brynffynon Arms pub, Llanwonno and 93 AON in the Penarth Marina/Glebe Street area of Cardiff; PEMBROKE: bred in 16+ 1-km squares; BRECON: 2-10 AON at six sites; MEIRIONNYDD: colony in Trefri area of Aberdyfi and around Trefri Hall, 2km upriver; nesting suspected near Pont Croesor, Pennal, Ynys and on the R.Artro; CAERNARFON: 14 AON on Ogwen Cottage, Llyn Ogwen; bred at Aberdaron, Llangwnnadl, Morfa Nefyn, Abergwyngregyn, Betws y Coed, Trefriw, Llandudno and Craig y don; 3 AON on Bardsey, one of which was successful; ANGLESEY: nested at Rhosneigr, Llangefni, Benllech and many other urban areas; DENBIGH: 10+ AON at Bodfari, and nested in Rhos-on-Sea.

Earliest and latest dates by county:

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	7 April	Newport Wetlands Reserve		15 Oct.	Newport Wetlands Reserve
E.GLAMORGAN	29 March	Lisvane Reservoir		**17 Oct.**	**Lavernock Point**
GOWER	2 April	Waunarlwydd		27 Sept.	Cwmrhydyceirw
CARMARTHEN	8 April	Machynys		23 Sept.	Burry Port
PEMBROKE	**19 March**	**Haverfordwest**		3 Oct.	Penberry & Skokholm
CEREDIGION	5 April	Teifi estuary		25 Sept.	Ynyslas
BRECON	30 March	Llangorse Lake		3 Oct.	Cradoc
MONTGOMERY	10 April	Llyn Coed y Dinas			
RADNOR	15 April	location not provided		10 Oct.	location not provided
MEIRIONNYDD	11 April	Pont Croesor		18 Sept.	Llwyngwril
CAERNARFON	4 April	Bardsey & Llandudno Junction		5 Oct.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY				19 Sept.	near Moelfre
DENBIGH	4 April	RSPB Conwy		1 Oct.	Lleweni Hall, Bodfari
FLINT	6 April	Rhuddlan		12 Oct.	near Bagillt

Large counts (200+): GWENT: 350 at Newport Wetlands Reserve Goldcliff on 26 May and 580 here on 23 Sept.; E.GLAMORGAN: *c*.200 over Llwyn-onn Res. on 22 Aug.; 650 at Lavernock Pt. on 3 Oct.; GOWER: 350+ over Eglwys Nunydd Res. on 23 Aug.; 300+ over Broughton on 2 Sept.; 400+ east in one hour over R.Neath marsh on 4 Sept.; 2000 east in 15 minutes over Cwmrhydyceirw on 27 Sept.; PEMBROKE: 212 over Skokholm on 24 Sept.; CEREDIGION: *c*.200 at Aberbanc on 3 Sept.; BRECON: 300+ over Crai Res. on 2 Sept.; many 100s over Llangynidr on 16 Sept.; MONTGOMERY: 250+ at Lake Vyrnwy on 15 Aug.; 1000+ over Sarn on 1 Sept.; CAERNARFON: 300 at Trefriw on 2 Sept.; 562 over Bardsey on 5 Aug., 408 here on 31st, 206 on 5 Sept. and 260 on 17th; DENBIGH: 200+ at RSPB Conwy on 8 Aug.

CETTI'S WARBLER *Cettia cetti* TELOR CETTI

Scarce but increasing breeding resident in mid and south Wales and on Anglesey (257 singing males in 2016); occasionally recorded on passage. Wales Green listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	**974**	**849**
% of BirdTrack lists	**5%**	**4%**

Frequency of occurrence on BirdTrack lists has fallen in the last couple of years (*cf*. 7% of lists in 2016) and it is thought that the cold weather in early March 2018 reduced their numbers. At Newport Wetlands Reserve, Gwent, the max. day count in Feb. was 25 birds but only 13 in March.

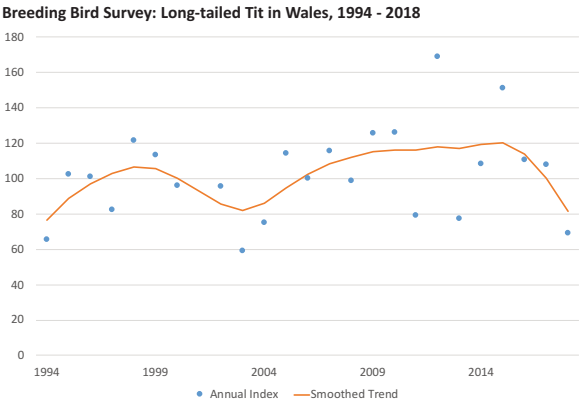
GWENT: 73 territories at 15 sites, incl. 43 at Newport Wetlands Reserve (*cf*. 64 in 2017); E.GLAMORGAN: an increase in sightings on 2017 with 352 reports, almost all from coastal reedbed. Territorial behaviour at several locations around Kenfig NNR. Max. site counts were six at Cadoxton Ponds and Cardiff Bay Wetlands Reserve and four at Kenfig Pool, all in April; GOWER: bred at Oxwich Marsh, Crymlyn Bog and Square Pond Neath, probably bred at another six sites, and present at 17 others; 14 birds at Heol Caer'r Bont and Margam Moors on 8 April; CARMARTHEN: 37 singing males at 11 sites, incl. 20 at Penclacwydd; PEMBROKE: at 13 sites in breeding season and a further four in winter, incl. one on Skokholm on 20 Oct.; CEREDIGION: small numbers bred at Teifi Marshes; min. three territories at RSPB Ynys-hir and four at Cors Fochno; BRECON: five territories at Llangorse Lake; RADNOR: one pair attempted to breed but outcome unknown; CAERNARFON: single at one site in May; records of singles at three other sites, incl. one ringed

on Bardsey on 30 Oct., the second site record (first in Oct. 1973); ANGLESEY: eight at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 26 Jan.; one at Rhoscolyn on 28 April was the first site record; 11 singing males at RSPB Valley Wetlands and environs; one at Llyn Maelog throughout the summer; one at Llyn Cefni on 9 Sept.; DENBIGH: present at RSPB Conwy in Jan., Feb., April, Oct. and Nov.; FLINT: 2-3 at Shotton Steelworks and Gronant/Point of Ayr in all months except July; four at Gronant on 16 Oct.

LONG-TAILED TIT *Aegithalos caudatus* TITW CYNFFON-HIR

Relatively common resident, widely distributed except on parts of Anglesey and Llŷn. Numbers fluctuate widely from year to year in response to the severity of winter weather. Unusual on the islands. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	3596	2917
% of BirdTrack lists	19%	15%



A significant drop in numbers recorded by the Breeding Bird Survey (-36% in a single year) provides the latest point on a very 'noisy' graph. This is another species that is laying eggs much earlier (15 days) than in the late 1960s, so variable weather in recent springs must surely have affected the availability of insect food. Over the last 50 years, nest failure rate at the chick stage has increased by 168%.

Highest counts (20+): GWENT: 20 in an Osbaston garden in Jan.; flock of 27 at Newport Wetlands Reserve Goldcliff in Oct.; E.GLAMORGAN: several flocks totalling 100 at Letty Brongu WTW, Maesteg, on 1 Feb.; *c*.35 in Fairwater, Cardiff, on 1 Sept.; *c*.30 at Radyr Bridge, Forest Farm, on 1 Nov.; 21 in three groups on Taff Trail (Trallwn to Cilfynydd) on 15 Nov.; 20+ at Garwnant on 18 Nov.; 22 at Parc Penallta on 9 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: 26 at Morfa Bychan on 1 Nov.; BRECON: *c*.20 near Garthbrengy in Feb.; CAERNARFON: 25 at Llanfairfechan WTW on 1 Feb.; DENBIGH: 21 at RSPB Conwy on 11 Nov.; FLINT: eight flocks of 20+, max. 32 at Connah's Quay NR on 23 Nov.

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus* TELOR YR HELYG

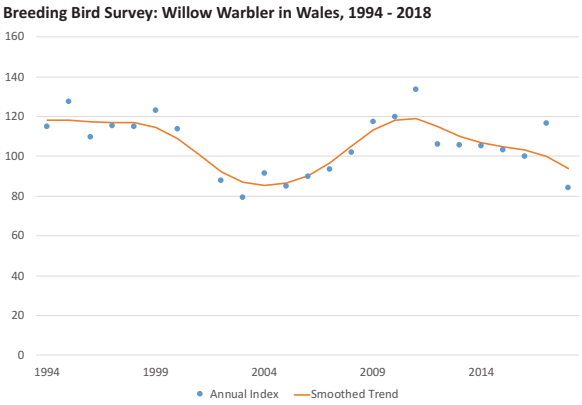
Abundant summer visitor. Numerous in suitable habitats up to around 670 metres. Also numerous passage migrant. Wales Red listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	2864	2637
% of BirdTrack lists	15%	13%

A significant (-28%) drop in the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales in just one year, but eight out of the last 10 years have been above the mean. Across the border, Willow Warbler numbers are declining dramatically in England south of a line from Shrewbury to the Humber and are broadly stable to the north. This is a species predicted to be negatively affected by climate change, and sadly we should expect a decline in Wales over the coming decade as Willow Warblers are lost from lowland South Wales.

Selected breeding season records: GWENT: 80 fewer records than in 2017, a 30% reduction;

E.GLAMORGAN: confirmed breeding at Kenfig NNR and Llantrisant Common (*cf*. 12 sites in 2017); GOWER: bred at min. 13 sites; PEMBROKE: breeding evidence from 37 1-km squares.



Earliest and latest reports in each county:

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	31 March	Collister Pill & Newport Wetlands		21 Sept.	Black Rock
E.GLAMORGAN	26 March	Kenfig Pool		**29 Oct.**	**West Aberthaw**
GOWER	30 March	Fendrod Lake & Swansea Vale		1 Oct.	Middleton
CARMARTHEN	30 March	Four locations		7 Sept.	Ashpits Pond
PEMBROKE	30 March	Teifi Marshes & Skokholm		18 Oct.	Skokholm
CEREDIGION	4 April	RSPB Ynys-hir		28 Sept.	RSPB Ynys-hir
BRECON	5 April	WTSWW Y Byddwn Res. & Llangorse		2 Sept.	near Sennybridge
MONTGOMERY	8 April	Dolydd Hafren			
RADNOR	28 March	no location provided		22 Sept.	no location provided
MEIRIONNYDD	9 April	Groeslwyd		10 Sept.	R.Dylif
CAERNARFON	**25 March**	**Bardsey**		18 Oct.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	3 April	RSPB South Stack		20 Sept.	Cemlyn
DENBIGH	8 April	Sydallt, Wrexham		2 Sept.	Glan Conwy
FLINT	5 April	Point of Ayr		23 Sept.	Sychdyn

Wintering: ANGLESEY: one at Bodffordd WTW on 24-29 Jan.

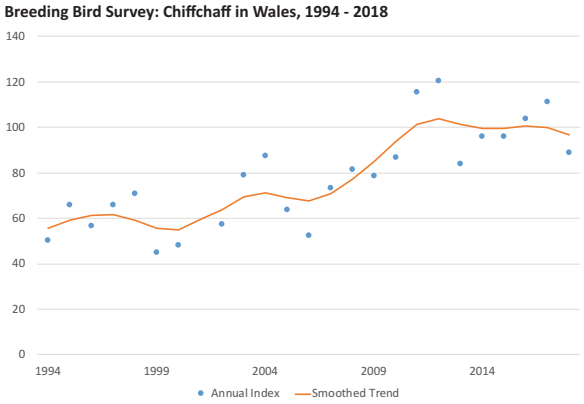
Counts of 10+: GWENT: 21 at Abertysseg on 22 April and 13 here in June; 15 at Newport Wetlands Reserve on 12 Sept.; GOWER: 13 along Heol Cae'r Bont/Margam Moors on 8 April; 46 caught at Oxwich Marsh on 4 Aug.; PEMBROKE: 143 on Skokholm on 4 Aug. and 159 here on 21st; BRECON: 20 singing males on an upland BBS in SO0916 on 5 May and 18 on 5 June; 22 territories at RSPB Carngafallt on 26 May; 18 singing males at Usk Res. on 29 May; CAERNARFON: spring passage on Bardsey included up to 72 on 7 April, 176 on 12th, 98 on 13th, 171 on 21st, 88 on 27th, 130 on 29th and 183 on 3 May; 15 at Uwchmynydd on 19 April; 11+ singing around Llyn Coedty on 17 May; 16 at Llyn Crafnant on 4 June; autumn passage on Bardsey included 96 on 29 July, 94 on 4 Aug., 80 on 7th, 115 on 20th and 95 on 21st but was considered a poor year for Willow Warbler passage, with the lowest bird-day total for eight years and the lowest max.day count for two decades; DENBIGH: 14 on a BBS at Blaen Bache on 8 May; FLINT: 11 on a BBS at Bwlchgwyn on 24 June.

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita* SIFF-SIAFF

Locally common breeding visitor in most counties. Winters in small numbers. Scarce on Anglesey. Wales Green listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	5290	4299
% of BirdTrack lists	27%	22%

A significant fall (-20%) in the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales in just a single year has flattened the long-term trend, but it still remains 69% above the baseline.



Wintering records where dates were provided. Some records refer to large numbers of birds present over an extended period:

	Jan	*Feb*		*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT	2	3		p	1
GOWER	1			3	5
E.GLAMORGAN	11			9	8
CARMARTHEN	13	12		2	3
PEMBROKE	2	10		2	3
CEREDIGION	2	2		1	1
BRECON				1	5
MONTGOMERY				1	
MEIRIONNYDD				1	
CAERNARFON	1	3		2	2
DENBIGH	3	1		3	1
FLINT	6	3		5	7

ANGLESEY: singles at three sites and four at Amlwch WTW in the first winter period (no dates given).

Passage: CAERNARFON: on Bardsey, recorded from 10 March with a day max. 128 on 3 April; autumn passage peaked at 38 in mid Sept. and 31 on 17 Oct.

***P.c. tristis* (Siberian Chiffchaff / Siff-siaff Siberia)**

WBRC until 31 December 2018: 56 records since 2007.

All records were single birds unless otherwise stated: E.GLAMORGAN: Parc Slip NR on 27-28 Dec.; PEMBROKE: Skokholm on 7, 16 and 20 Oct. (accepted as different individuals); FLINT: Point of Ayr on 7 Jan.

WESTERN BONELLI'S WARBLER *Phylloscopus bonelli* TELOR BONELLI Y GORLLEWIN

Rare passage migrant. BBRC: 14 previous records.

PEMBROKE: one on Skomer on 16 Sept., did not call.

WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* TELOR Y COED

Summer visitor to oak woods throughout most of upland Wales, declining; passage migrant in small numbers at coastal sites. Wales Red listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	225	248
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	1%

Breeding: GWENT: singing males at nine sites, incl. the stronghold in Wentwood where five of 15 nesting attempts monitored were successful, incl. one on the third attempt; E.GLAMORGAN: probably bred at four sites and possibly at another 15; GOWER: bred at Pontneddfechan and Craig Emroch, probably bred at three other sites, and birds noted at an additional 14; PEMBROKE: breeding evidence at Minwear and Canaston; CEREDIGION: 10 at Cwm Einion in May; seven singing males at Longwood-Bettws Bledrws; four singing males at Cwm Rheidiol; BRECON: 1-4 singing males at 10 sites, plus nine territories in part of Fennifach Wood and eight at Brynhenllys Wood; DENBIGH: 52% increase in number of records with breeding possible or probable at 13 locations and confirmed at two others; FLINT: 1-2 singing males in late April at Coed y Felin, Hendre; four singing males at Nercwys Mountain.

Earliest and latest reports in each county:

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	19 April	Trellech Common		15 June	Wentwood
E.GLAMORGAN	19 April	Cwm Darren Woods		14 Aug.	Lisvane Reservoir
GOWER	19 April	Melicourt & Cwm Dyffryn		**7 Sept.**	**Neath Saltings**
CARMARTHEN	4 May	Dinas		31 May	Dinas
PEMBROKE	28 April	Rosebush			
CEREDIGION	18 April	Longwood, Bettws Bledrws			
BRECON	13 April	Llangasty		23 June	Pontneddfechan
MONTGOMERY	18 April	Cwm Nant y Meichiad			
RADNOR	15 April	no location provided		2 Sept.	no location provided
MEIRIONNYDD	18 April	Llanelltyd & Dolmelynllyn		1 Aug.	Dinas Mawddwy
CAERNARFON	**12 April**	**Llanberis**		30 Aug.	Bardsey
DENBIGH	21 April	Froncysyllte		8 July	Coed Hafod
FLINT	24 April	Coed y Felin, Hendre			

YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER *Phylloscopus inornatus* TELOR AELFELYN

Scarce autumn visitor.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	16	83
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

A typical number for recent years, but fewer overwintering birds than in 2017.

Number of birds in each county.

Monthly occurrence	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*		*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
E.GLAMORGAN						4	1	
GOWER						7		
CARMARTHEN						1	1	
PEMBROKE					3	11		
MONTGOMERY						1		
MEIRIONNYDD						1		
CAERNARFON						8-10		
Bardsey						17		
ANGLESEY		1				5		
DENBIGH						2		
FLINT						2		

GREENISH WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochiloides* TELOR GWYRDD
Rare passage migrant. WBRC: 28 previous records.

CAERNARFON: remarkably, three different individuals in four days on Bardsey: on 30 May, 1 and 2 June.

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* TELOR YR HESG
Locally distributed summer visitor, numerous in some sites; plentiful passage migrant. Wales Green listed

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	**952**	**935**
% of BirdTrack lists	**5%**	**5%**

Breeding: GWENT: probably bred at four sites and possibly at another seven; E.GLAMORGAN: probably bred at two sites and possibly at eight other sites; GOWER: bred at four sites and probably at three others; max. count 18 along Heol Cae'r Bont/Margam Moors on 3 May; CARMARTHEN: 34 territories at Penclacwydd; PEMBROKE: evidence

Earliest and latest reports in each county:

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	**31 March**	**Newport Wetlands Reserve**		21 Sept.	Llandegfedd Res.
E.GLAMORGAN	7 April	Cardiff Bay Wetland Reserve		22 Sept.	East Aberthaw
GOWER	9 April	Kenfig reedbed		**29 Sept.**	**Oxwich Marsh**
CARMARTHEN	16 April	Penclacwydd		30 July	Penclacwydd
PEMBROKE	7 April	Marloes		24 Sept.	Teifi Marshes
CEREDIGION	8 April	Teifi estuary/marshes		24 Sept.	Teifi estuary
BRECON	19 April	Llangorse Lake		23 Aug.	Llangorse Lake
MONTGOMERY	23 April	Dolydd Hafren		11 Aug.	Dolydd Hafren
RADNOR	17 April	no location provided		19 Sept.	no location provided
MEIRIONNYDD	19 April	Broadwater		22 Aug.	Lower Tryweryn
CAERNARFON	14 April	Bardsey		18 Sept.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	28 April	Rhoscolyn		31 Aug.	Cemlyn
DENBIGH	12 April	RSPB Conwy		9 Aug.	Erddig
FLINT	21 April	Gronant		5 Sept.	Gronant

from 15 1-km squares; BRECON: present at six sites, incl. 5+ territories at Llangasty; MEIRIONNYDD: possibly bred at 5+ sites; CAERNARFON: bred at nine sites incl. Bardsey where there were five territories; ANGLESEY: bred at Cemlyn and RSPB Valley Wetlands; DENBIGH: bred at RSPB Conwy and two pairs fed young on Mynydd Hiraethog >350m; FLINT: bred at Gronant area and Rhydymwyn.

Ringing: GWENT: 217 caught at Newport Wetlands Reserve Uskmouth, incl. 71 on 4 Aug.; GOWER: 81 caught at Oxwich Marsh NNR between 27 July and 9 Aug. and 37 on 20-21 Aug.; CEREDIGION: 241 ringed at Teifi Marshes on 3 and 4 May.

BLYTH'S REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus dumetorum* TELOR Y CYRS BLYTH
Rare vagrant. WBRC: five previous records.

CAERNARFON: singles on Bardsey on 25-27 May and on 6 June.

REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* TELOR Y CYRS
Local summer visitor, breeding in reedbeds in many counties, increasing; scarce passage migrant. Wales Green listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	**809**	**739**
% of BirdTrack lists	**4%**	**4%**

Breeding: GWENT: bred at Newport Wetlands Reserve Goldcliff and probably/possibly at 11 other sites; E.GLAMORGAN: probably bred at Grangemoor Park and Parc Taf Bargoed lakes, and possibly at 11 other sites; GOWER: bred at six sites and probably at three others; CARMARTHEN: 29 territories at Penclacwydd (*cf*. 33 in 2017); PEMBROKE: breeding evidence from only one site (*cf*. seven in 2017); CEREDIGION: present at five sites; BRECON: bred at Llangorse Lake; MEIRIONNYDD: two broods at Ynys Pool; 10 singing males at Aberdysynni reedbeds, one at Llanelltyd; CAERNARFON: bred at Rhos-on-Sea and Aber Ogwen, and probably at eight other sites; ANGLESEY: bred at RSPB Valley Wetlands; DENBIGH: bred at RSPB Conwy, present at seven other sites; FLINT: bred at Shotton Steelworks where 47 were ringed; other records from Rhyl to Gronant.

Earliest and latest reports in each county:

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	13 April	Llanwern steelworks		12 Sept.	Newport Wetlands & Llanwern
E.GLAMORGAN	**8 April**	**East Aberthaw**		7 Sept.	Rhymney Great Wharf & Hendre Lake
GOWER	16 April	Margam Moors		22 Oct.	Oxwich Marsh NNR
CARMARTHEN	9 April	Penclacwydd		22 July.	Penclacwydd
PEMBROKE	16 April	Teifi Marshes		29 Sept.	Skokholm
CEREDIGION	16 April	Teifi Marshes		19 Sept.	Teifi Marshes
BRECON	15 April	Llangorse Lake			
MONTGOMERY	21 April	Cors Dyfi		16 Aug.	Dolydd Hafren
RADNOR	19 April	no location provided		15 Sept.	no location provided
MEIRIONNYDD	4 May	Aberdysynni		25 July	Ynys Pool
CAERNARFON	17 April	Bardsey		5 Oct.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY				22 Sept.	Carmel Head
DENBIGH	14 April	RSPB Conwy		**29 Oct.**	**Erddig**
FLINT	22 April	Shotton Steelworks		9 Sept.	Shotton Steelworks

Ringing: GWENT: 334 caught at Newport Wetlands Reserve Uskmouth, incl. 59 on 4 Aug.; GOWER: 41 caught at Oxwich NNR on 21 July and 53 on 21 Aug.

MARSH WARBLER *Acrocephalus palustris* TELOR Y GWERNI
Rare vagrant. WBRC: 27 previous records.

CAERNARFON: one on Bardsey on 1 June.

MELODIOUS WARBLER *Hippolais polyglotta* TELOR PER
Scarce but regular migrant. WBRC: 226 previous records.

All single birds: PEMBROKE: Skokholm on 2 and 5 Sept.; CAERNARFON: Porth Meudwy on 22-28 Oct.

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER *Locustella naevia* TROELLWR BACH
Summer visitor, widely but thinly distributed in all counties. Passage migrant. Wales Red listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	290	151
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	<1%

Breeding/reeling males: GWENT: 10 at Newport Wetlands Reserve/Caldicot Levels; territory at Brynmawr Park; E.GLAMORGAN: four sites in May and/or June; GOWER: bred at Oxwich NNR and heard at three other sites; CARMARTHEN: eight sites; PEMBROKE: in five 1-km squares; BRECON: three sites; MONTGOMERY: three sites; MEIRIONNYDD: six sites; CAERNARFON: 18 sites; ANGLESEY: eight sites; DENBIGH: 15 records with probable breeding at one site; FLINT: three sites, confirmed breeding at one.

Earliest and latest reports in each county:

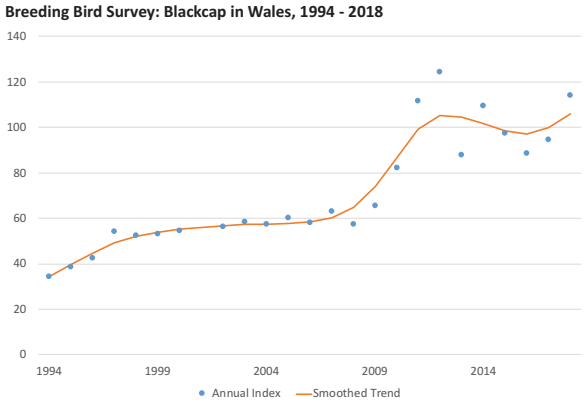
	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	**7 April**	**Newport Wetlands Reserve**		7 Sept.	Twmbarwlwm
E.GLAMORGAN	13 April	Cardiff Bay Wetland Reserve		5 Sept.	Cosmeston Lakes CP
GOWER	13 April	Oxwich Marsh NNR		1 Sept.	Mewslade Valley
CARMARTHEN	14 April	Pwll		9 July	Ffos-las Lakes
PEMBROKE	13 April	Tenby & Goodwick Moor		24 Sept.	Teifi Marshes & Skokholm
CEREDIGION	14 April	Teifi Marshes		**25 Sept.**	**Ynyslas**
BRECON	7 May	Y Gors		25 June	near Coelbren
MONTGOMERY	15 April	Pwll Penarth			
RADNOR	15 April	no location provided		30 Aug.	no location provided
MEIRIONNYDD	10 April	Pont Croesor			
CAERNARFON	8 April	Bardsey		12 Sept.	Bardsey
DENBIGH	21 April	Llyn Brenig		29 June	Pendinas Reservoir
FLINT	20 April	Talacre		18 July	Gronant

BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla* TELOR PENDDU

Plentiful summer visitor throughout Wales; passage migrant and small-scale winter visitor. Wales Green listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	3007	2915
% of BirdTrack lists	15%	15%

Following almost two decades of increase, the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales has levelled out, but remains 153% above its 1994 level.



Wintering numbers in each county where provided:

	Jan	Feb		Nov	Dec
GWENT	15+			18+	
GOWER	9	9		1	1
CARMARTHEN	5	1		2	5
PEMBROKE	2	2		1	7
BRECON				1	
MONTGOMERY	2	3		3	4
MEIRIONNYDD				1	
CAERNARFON	6	1		2	1
ANGLESEY	2-3			2	
DENBIGH	7	6		1	3
FLINT	8	11		2	2

E.GLAMORGAN: 72 reports during first winter period, typically 1-2 birds (max. four in Barry), and 20 reports in Nov.-Dec., all singles except three at Cwm Col-huw on 3 Nov. and four at Aberthaw lagoon on 13 Nov.

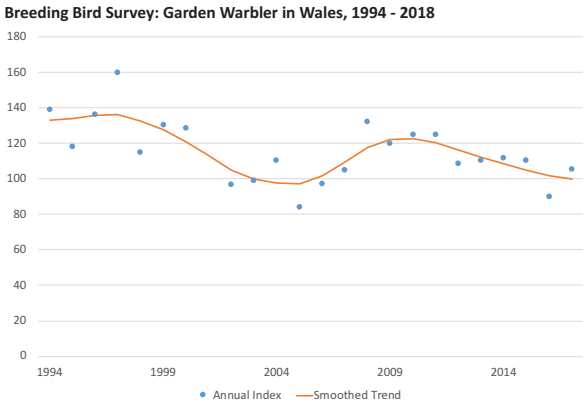
Peak day counts on passage: GWENT: 16 at Newport Wetlands Reserve on 16 Sept.; E.GLAMORGAN: 15 at Kenfig NNR on 3 Sept.; 15 at Cardiff Bay Wetlands Reserve on 5 Sept.; 10 at East Aberthaw on 22 Sept.; GOWER: 45 caught at Oxwich Marsh on 29 Sept.; PEMBROKE: 164 on Skokholm on 13 April; CAERNARFON: 50 on Bardsey on 7 April, 63 on 8th, 119+ on 12th, 97 on 13th, 36 on 20th and 59 on 29th; 19 at Porth Meudwy on 7 Sept.; autumn peak on Bardsey was 13 on 18 Oct.

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin* TELOR YR ARDD

Common and widely distributed summer visitor. Regular passage migrant. Wales Green listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	420	433
% of BirdTrack lists	2%	2%

The Garden Warbler population does seem somewhat cyclical, but the Breeding Bird Survey index is now 25% lower than in 1994, which would qualify its uprating to Amber List if the trend continues.



Earliest and latest reports in each county:

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	18 April	Magor Marsh		1 Sept.	Newport Wetlands Reserve
E.GLAMORGAN	21 April	Coed Craig Rupera & Brynna Woods		7 Sept.	Lavernock Point
GOWER	19 April	Llanmadoc		21 Aug.	Oxwich Marsh NNR
CARMARTHEN	28 April	New Inn, Llandeilo		**11 Oct.***	**Pwll**
PEMBROKE	26 April	Landshipping		25 Sept.	Skomer
CEREDIGION	21 April	RSPB Ynys-hir		21 Sept.	RSPB Ynys-hir
BRECON	26 April	Llangorse Lake		29 Aug.	Llangorse Lake
MONTGOMERY	25 April	Dolydd Hafren & Llanvihangel			
RADNOR	**16 April**	**no location provided**		22 Sept.	no location provided
MEIRIONNYDD	1 May	Lower Tryweryn, Bala		7 July	West Cynwyd Forest
CAERNARFON	22 April	Pensychnant		26 Sept.	Porth Meudwy
ANGLESEY	**16 April**	**Llyn Hafodol**			
DENBIGH	25 April	RSPB Conwy		2 Sept.	Glan Conwy
FLINT	1 May	Llanfynydd		5 Sept.	Gronant

*excludes a bird feeding on apples in a garden at Parc y Rhos, Cwmann, on 11 Nov.

BARRED WARBLER *Sylvia nisoria* TELOR RHESOG

Rare visitor. WBRC: 105 previous records.

CAERNARFON: one on Bardsey on 26 Oct.

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca* LLWYDFRON FACH

Summer visitor to lowland habitats, but localised. Passage migrant in small numbers. Wales Green listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	**343**	**294**
% of BirdTrack lists	**2%**	**1%**

The breeding trend of Lesser Whitethroat in Wales remains uncertain because of low sample size in the Breeding Bird Survey.

Earliest and latest reports in each county:

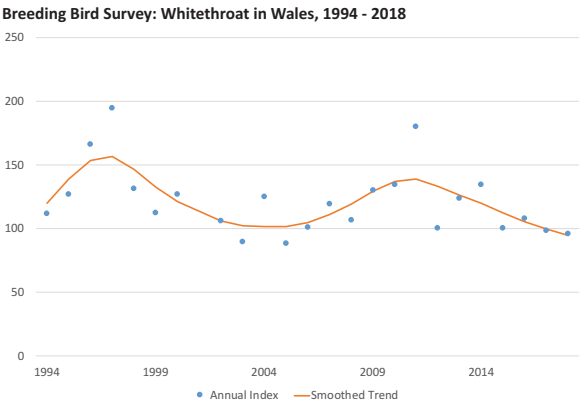
	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	**15 April**	**Newport Wetlands & Greenmoor Pool**		25 Sept.	Collister Pill
E.GLAMORGAN	16 April	Penarth Moors		7 Sept.	Cardiff Bay Wetland Reserve
GOWER	16 April	Margam Moors		8 July	Kenfig Industrial Estate
CARMARTHEN	19 April	Kidwelly Quay		6 Oct.	Penclacwydd
PEMBROKE	17 April	Landshipping		2 Oct.	Skomer
CEREDIGION	20 April	Teifi estuary		22 Aug.	RSPB Ynys-hir
BRECON	8 May	Llangorse Lake		23 June	near Llanspyddid
MONTGOMERY	10 May	Llyn Coed y Dinas			
RADNOR	17 April	no location provided		4 Sept.	no location provided
MEIRIONNYDD	12 May	Rhosigwalia			
CAERNARFON	21 April	Sychnant Pass		**20 Oct.**	**Bardsey**
ANGLESEY	**15 April**	**Cemlyn**		6 Sept.	RSPB Cors Ddyga
DENBIGH	19 April	RSPB Conwy		9 Aug.	RSPB Conwy
FLINT	18 April	Greenfield Dock		14 Sept.	near Bagillt

Birds showing characteristics o**f *S.c. blythi* (Siberian Lesser Whitethroat/Llwydfron Fach Siberia)**.
WBRC: four previous records.
CAERNARFON: one on Bardsey on 20 Oct. to at least 18 Nov. was confirmed by DNA analysis.

WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis* LLWYDFRON
Widespread summer visitor and passage migrant. Wales Red listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	**1891**	**1640**
% of BirdTrack lists	**10%**	**8%**

The Breeding Bird Survey in Wales index is 28% below its 1994 level, remembering that when BBS began, Whitethroat numbers were already 70% below their early 1960s level. The current decline in Wales is in contrast to every other part of Britain where numbers have increased since the baseline.



Whitethroat (Bob Garrett)

Earliest and latest reports in each county:

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	5 April	Newport Wetlands Reserve		1 Sept.	Newport Wetlands Reserve
E.GLAMORGAN	**4 April**	**Rhymney Great Wharf**		29 Sept.	Cosmeston Lakes CP
GOWER	8 April	Morfa pinewood		15 Sept.	Oxwich Marsh NNR
CARMARTHEN	9 April	Machynys		7 Sept.	Ashpit Pond & Telpyn Point
PEMBROKE	6 April	St Davids		24 Sept.	Dale Airfield
CEREDIGION	20 April	Teifi estuary		25 Sept.	Llansantffraed
BRECON	20 April	Merthyr Cynog		8 Aug.	Usk Reservoir
MONTGOMERY	25 April	Dolydd Hafren			
RADNOR	17 April	no location provided		26 Sept.	no location provided
MEIRIONNYDD	16 April	R.Dylif		20 Aug.	Cwm Mynach
CAERNARFON	18 April	Morfa Bychan		**5 Oct.**	**Bardsey**
ANGLESEY	15 April	Cemlyn		24 Sept.	Holyhead
DENBIGH	8 April	Llandegla		5 Sept.	RSPB Conwy
FLINT	18 April	Rhyl Brickfields NR		3 Sept.	Rhyl

Notable counts: E.GLAMORGAN: 11 at Kenfig Pool on 18 July; 15 at Pant Norton on 13 Aug.; CARMARTHEN: 12 territories at Penclacwydd; CEREDIGION: 14 singing males at Cross Inn Forest on 21 May; CAERNARFON: spring passage on Bardsey produced peaks of 18 on 5 May, 12 on 23 May and 32 on 26th; autumn passage peaked at just six on 6 Sept.; ANGLESEY: 10 at Cemlyn on 31 Aug.

DARTFORD WARBLER *Sylvia undata* TELOR DARTFORD

Rare migrant to coastal areas, mainly in south and west Wales. Breeds in small numbers – RBBP: 29 pairs in 2017. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	38	12
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

The absence of records from North Wales indicates that its colonisation here has been stymied, perhaps at least in part by the cold, snowy conditions in March, which will have affected the west Wales population too (there were 23 pairs in Pembrokeshire in 2017). The decrease in Gower was probably exacerbated by uncontrolled burning of breeding habitat.

All records: E.GLAMORGAN: two females on the Heritage Coast on 18 April; GOWER: two pairs on Gower, one of which probably bred; PEMBROKE: bred at one site; three birds at Pen Anglas on 18 Feb. before the cold snap, then singles here on 26 March and 9 April; single at St David's on 26 Jan. and 5 April; two at Pwll Deri on 6 Aug.

EASTERN SUBALPINE WARBLER *Sylvia cantillans* TELOR BRONGOCH

Rare vagrant from southeast Europe. BBRC: 13 previous records.

CAERNARFON: male on Bardsey on 22 May, and a female here on 29th.

In addition, a 1CY female on Skomer, PEMBROKE, on 20 May could not be ascribed to species level.

FIRECREST *Regulus ignicapilla* DRYW PENFFLAMGOCH

Scarce breeding resident. RBBP: 13 pairs in 2017. Uncommon passage migrant. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	96	158
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Breeding: GWENT: singing males at Llanellan, Wentwood and Peterstone Wentlooge, but considered under-reported; DENBIGH: possibly bred again in Clocaenog Forest.

Numbers of birds in each county (in Gwent only away from the breeding areas):

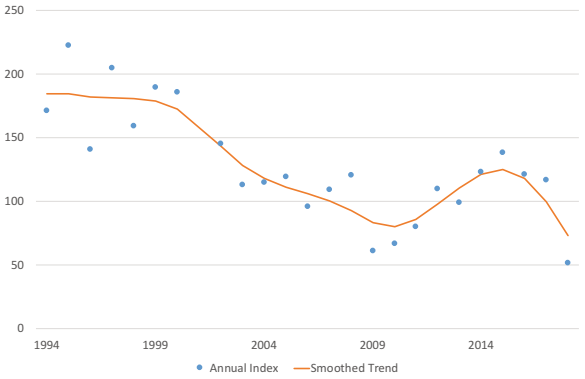
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT			1	1								
E.GLAMORGAN	2	1	3							1	1	1
GOWER	1	1								3		
CARMARTHEN	1	2	2								1	
PEMBROKE	p	4*	p	p	p				2	8	3	
MEIRIONNYDD	2											
CAERNARFON												
Bardsey			2	7	3				2	6	2	
Great Orme				1							1	
elsewhere	4		1								2	
ANGLESEY	9	4								2	1	3
DENBIGH	1-2	1-2	4+			1						

* Pembroke: 1-2 at 14 locations in the first part of the year up until 31 May, incl. four at one site in Feb.

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus* DRYW EURBEN

Abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	3554	1963
% of BirdTrack lists	19%	10%



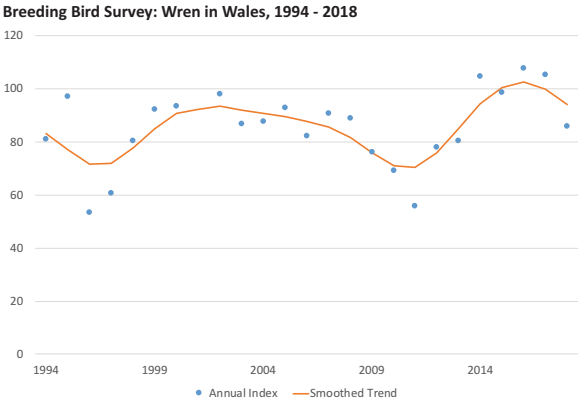
The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales hit a new low in 2018, in contrast to the previous decade of recovery. Numbers are 46% below their 1994 level, whereas the trend is markedly positive in other UK countries.

Counts of 20+: E.GLAMORGAN: 20 at Lletty Brongu WTW, Maesteg on 1 Feb.; GOWER: a poor year with only 36 ringed during the year at Oxwich Marsh; CARMARTHEN: *c*.20 at Kidwelly Quay WTW on 19 Jan.; PEMBROKE: max. counts on Skokholm were 24 on 9 April and 37 on 7 Oct.; CAERNARFON: max. 24 on three dates in late Sept. on Bardsey, 53 in the first week of Oct., up to 26 in the second week and 23 in the third week.

WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes* DRYW

Abundant resident, found from sea-level to c.900 metres. Wales Green listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	9883	8619
% of BirdTrack lists	55%	47%



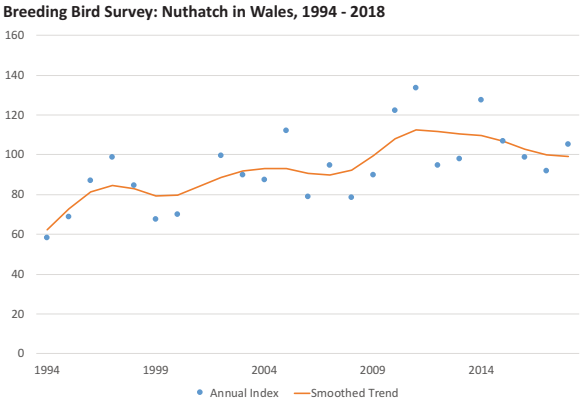
The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales remains 30% higher than the 1994 baseline, even though numbers dipped in 2018, perhaps a consequence of the 'Beast from the East' in early spring but not to the extent following the more prolonged cold spells in 2010 and 2011. The number of BirdTrack lists incl. Wren also fell markedly, the Gwent bird recorder noted a *c*.35% reduction in the number of records submitted compared to 2017, and in Pembrokeshire the number of 1-km squares with records fell by 10% (and the number with breeding evidence by 20%). Site breeding surveys suggested a mixed picture: a slight increase in territories at Penclacwydd, Carmarthenshire (97, *cf*. 91 in 2017) but a 45% reduction on Bardsey, Caernarfonshire (134 territories, *cf*. 246 in 2017).

Notable count: PEMBROKE: 77 on Skokholm on 21 Aug.

NUTHATCH *Sitta europaea* DELOR Y CNAU

Widely distributed and fairly numerous resident of mature deciduous and mixed woodland throughout Wales. Increasing. Unusual on the Welsh islands. Wales Green listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	2837	2719
% of BirdTrack lists	15%	14%



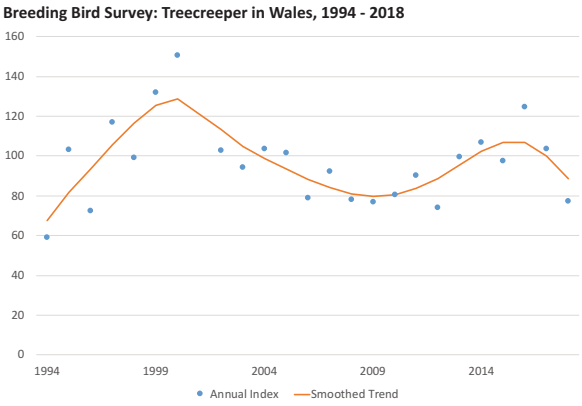
The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales has fallen back slightly in the last few years but sustained growth to 2010 means that it remains 37% above its 1994 level.

Breeding productivity: GOWER: at Cwm Clydach, 12 pairs laid eggs, from which 10 pairs fledged 57 young, productivity of 4.8 young/nest, (*cf*. 4.4 in 2017).

TREECREEPER *Certhia familiaris* DRINGWR BACH

Resident. Widely distributed in woodlands throughout Wales. Unusual on the islands. Wales Green listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	904	962
% of BirdTrack lists	5%	5%



The post-2010 recovery in the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales was interrupted in 2018, probably by the severe cold snap in late winter/early spring. Nonetheless, the index remains 22% above its 1994 baseline.

Autumn passage: CAERNARFON: singles on Bardsey on 11 and 14-15 Oct.

ROSE-COLOURED STARLING *Pastor roseus* DRUDWEN WRIDOG

Rare visitor from southeast Europe. WBRC: 110 previous records.

A bumper year with 17 records, the most ever in Wales in a single year. Most of the records came in two waves, during late May/early June, and in the first two weeks of November.

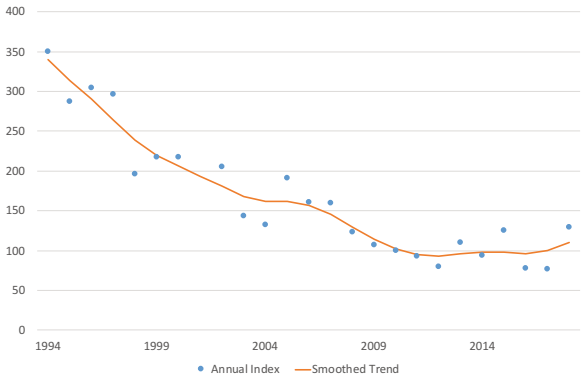
Singles unless otherwise stated: CARMARTHEN: adult at Llangennech on 8 June; 1CY at Ammanford on 18-28 Sept.; adult at Machynys on 7 and 10 Nov.; PEMBROKE: 1CY moulting into adult plumage at Roch on 8 Feb., presumed same at Roberston West on 5 March; adult at Skomer on 4 June; adult at Martin's Haven on 9-10 June; adult at Hakin on 10 June; adult at Whitesands on 14 June; 1CY at Castlemartin on 24 Oct.; CEREDIGION: two adults at Ynyslas on 6 June; adult at Llanrhystud on 8-9 June; BRECON: adult in Brecon on 15-20 June; CAERNARFON: 1CY in Llandudno from 30 Oct. to year end at least; ANGLESEY: two in Trearddur Bay on 27 May; 1CY in Amlwch on 5-6 Nov.

STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris* DRUDWEN

Widespread resident; passage migrant and winter visitor in large numbers. Wales Red listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	5013	5403
% of BirdTrack lists	27%	28%

Breeding Bird Survey: Starling in Wales, 1994 - 2018



The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales in 2018 was at its highest for more than a decade, 69% higher than the previous year. One year's results are insufficient to make any judgement about whether the long-term decline has been arrested, but it marks a decade of stability following a 68% decline since the 1994 baseline.

Large winter flocks (1000+) in first winter period: GWENT: 4000 at St.

Starling (Tony Pope)

Bride's Wentlooge on 1 Jan.; 5000 at Newport Wetlands Reserve Uskmouth on 2 Jan.; E.GLAMORGAN: 1500 at Mynydd Eglwysilan on 1 Jan.; 5000 at Sker on 6 Jan.; 10,000 at Bridgend on 17 Jan., 12,000 here on 22nd, falling to 4500 on 29th; PEMBROKE: 250,000 at Slebech on 11 Jan.; CEREDIGION: 50,000 roosted at Aberystwyth pier in March; BRECON: 2000 roosted at Brecon Library on 1 Feb. and 3931 (from a photo) in a pre-roost flock here on 12th; 8000 above Llywel on 25 Feb.; RADNOR: 180,000 roosted at Llandegley on 9 Feb.; CAERNARFON: 3500 at Llandudno Junction on 7 March; 50,000 at Dolgarrog on 20 Jan. and 45,000 at nearby Morfa Uchaf on 21st; 24,000 at Cors Ystumllyn on 21 Feb.; ANGLESEY: 300,000 roosted near Mynydd Parys; DENBIGH: 1000 at Rhewl, near Ruthin, on 17 Jan.; 5500 roosted on Colwyn Bay Pier on 29 Jan.; FLINT: 60,000 around Point of Ayr and Gronant dunes on 10 Jan., increasing to 100,000 in early Feb.

In the second winter period: GWENT: 30,000 at Newport Wetlands Reserve Uskmouth on 21 Oct., increasing to 70,000 by 2 Nov., but then falling to 3000 on 10 Dec.; E.GLAMORGAN: 1500 at Lavernock Point on 16 Nov.; 4500 at Kenfig Pool on 26 Nov.; 2500 at Porthcawl on 2 Dec.; 2000 at Merthyr Mawr on 2 Dec.; GOWER: max. 10,000 in three flocks over Llanrhidian on 25 Nov.; CARMARTHEN: 1000 roosted at Ashpits Pond on 26 Oct.; 20,000 at Penclacwydd on 12-14 Dec.; PEMBROKE: 50,000 at Slebech on 31 Oct.; 10,000 at Heathfield GP on 30 Oct.; CEREDIGION: 20,000 at Penrhiwllan in Nov.; 7777 passed Ynyslas on 15 Nov. and 8161 here on 16th; BRECON: 11,500 roosted at Llangorse Lake on 23 Oct., increasing to 60,000 on 2 Nov.; 14,000 over Groesffordd towards Llangorse on 11 Nov.; 10,000 roosted at Llywel on 22 Dec. and 18,000 here on 31st; MONTGOMERY: up to 10,000 at Dolydd Hafren on 24 Dec.; MEIRIONNYDD: 1200 at Glan Llyn, Bala, on 28 Oct.; CAERNARFON: 5487 past Morfa Madryn on 20 Oct.; 2156 past Bangor on 19 Oct. and 10,041 here on 5 Nov.; 4900 on Bardsey on 26 Oct. and 5000 here on 16 Nov.; 8000 at Morfa Uchaf, Conwy Valley, on 2 Nov. increasing to 86,802 on 18th; 40,000 at Cors Ystumllyn on 29 Dec.; ANGLESEY: 200,000 near Mynydd Parys on 4 Nov.; 125,000 at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 15 Nov. and 80,000 here on 31 Dec.; DENBIGH: 1000 at Gwytherin on 19 Oct.; FLINT: 19,321 at Connah's Quay NR on 5 Nov. and 8044 here on 13th.

RING OUZEL *Turdus torquatus* MWYALCHEN Y MYNYDD

Summer visitor breeding in the uplands in decreasing numbers; passage migrant. Wales Red listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	**109**	**138**
% of BirdTrack lists	**<1%**	**<1%**

Breeding: BRECON: a pair probably bred in the Senni valley and a second pair was present on 8 May; alarm calls heard from crags in upper Tawe valley in May; MEIRIONNYDD: singing birds at four sites, present at five other sites; male carried food to nest at Carreg y Foel

Earliest and latest reports in each county:

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	24 March	Newport Wetlands Reserve		3 Nov.	Pwll Du
E.GLAMORGAN	**15 March***	**Llanmihangel Mill, Pyle**		**17 Nov.**	**Cosmeston Lakes CP**
CARMARTHEN	5 April	Mynydd Du		16 Oct.	Kidwelly Marsh
PEMBROKE	4 April	Carn Ingli		23 Oct.	Skomer
BRECON	25 March	Darren Ddu		13 Nov.	Nant-y-gro
MONTGOMERY				29 Oct.	Moel Sych, Berwyns
MEIRIONNYDD	17 March	Farchynys, Mawddach		3 Oct.	Rhiwbrydfir
CAERNARFON	26 March	Anafon valley		30 Oct.	Bardsey
DENBIGH	25 March	Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd		29 Oct.	Pistyll Rhaeadr
FLINT	8 April	Penycloddiau			

*Excludes an over-wintering male at Mynydd Eglwysilan from 14 Dec. 2017 to 1 Feb.

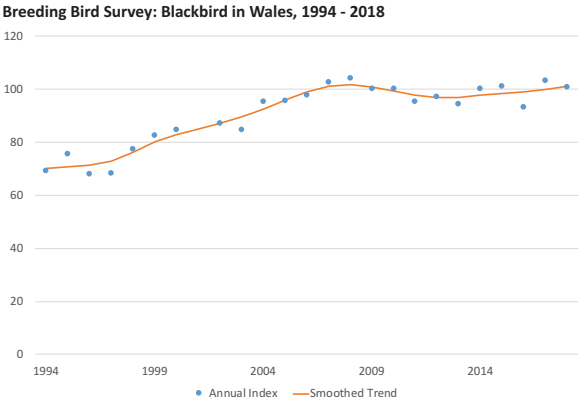
Gron on 15 June; CAERNARFON: bred in the Llyn Eigiau area and present at six other sites in the Glyderau, at four in the Snowdon range, at 11 sites in the Carneddau and four elsewhere.

Passage (10+ birds): RADNOR: 11 in Harley Dingle on 16 Oct.; up to 12 in the Elan Valley from mid-Oct. and 16 here in early Nov.

BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula* MWYALCHEN

Abundant breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.Wales Green listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	12432	12140
% of BirdTrack lists	68%	65%



The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales has remained stable for a decade, 42% above its 1994 level.

Large counts (30+), many of which were associated with the 'Beast from the East' in late Feb./early March: GWENT: 42 around Osbaston on 8 Jan.; 45 at Peterstone Gout on 17 Jan.; E.GLAMORGAN: 100 at Garth Mountain on 7 Nov.; GOWER: 30 at Cwm Dyffryn on 28 Feb.; CARMARTHEN: 30 at Brynaman on 28 Feb.; PEMBROKE: 200 at Landshipping on 2 March; 100 at Pembroke Mill Pond on 3 March; BRECON: 55 at Bronllys Hospital orchard on 1 March; 40 at Llanfrynach on 2 March; 27 in Llanwrthwl on 4 March; MONTGOMERY: 30 at Powis Castle on 10 Jan.; 40 at Abermule on 2 March; CAERNARFON: 100 at Uwchmynydd on 5 Nov.; ANGLESEY: 100 roosted at Llyn Cefni on 14 Jan.; DENBIGH: 47 at Gellifor on 24 April.

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris* SOCAN EIRA

Winter visitor and passage migrant in variable numbers; often abundant. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	749	902
% of BirdTrack lists	4%	4%

High counts (120+) in the first winter period include several >1000 associated with cold weather in early March: GWENT: 260 at Osbaston on 26 Jan.; 250 at Redwick on 28 Jan.; 185 at Goldcliff on 2 Feb.; 500 at Newport Wetlands Saltmarsh on 3 March; 505 near St.Bride's on 5 March; 150 on Skirrid Fach on 12 March; E.GLAMORGAN: 200 in Cardiff on 1 Jan.; 500 on Mynydd Eglwysilan on 2 Jan.; 6000 over Cardiff Bay on 2 March; 3000 at Ogmore-by-Sea on 2 March; 300 at Aberthaw on 18 March; GOWER: 150 at Mynydd Penhydd on 11 Feb.; 200 at Heol Cae'r Bont on 4 March; CARMARTHEN: 250 at Cilsan Bridge on 16 Jan. and 160 here on 6 March; PEMBROKE: 120 at Castlemartin Corse on 30 Jan.; 120 at Landshipping on 2 March; 1700 over Skomer on 2 March; CEREDIGION: 200 at Talgarreg in Jan.; 200 at Ynyslas in Jan. and 250 here in Feb.; DENBIGH: 245 at Penycae on 10 Feb.; 300 near Sutton Green on 28 March.

Latest and earliest reports in each county:

	Latest	Site		Earliest	Site
GWENT	12 April	Osbaston		18 Oct.	Mynydd Henllys & near Magor
E.GLAMORGAN	26 March	no location provided		18 Oct.	Lavernock Point & Bridgend
GOWER	18 March	Aberavon		20 Oct.	Killay
CARMARTHEN	27 March	Pal y Cŵrt		26 Oct.	Pal y Cŵrt
PEMBROKE	20 March	Plumstone		19 Oct.	Skokholm
CEREDIGION	21 March	no location provided		19 Oct.	no location provided
BRECON	13 April	Gamrhiw, Llanwrthwl		9 Oct.	Brecon
MONTGOMERY	25 March	Dolydd Hafren		18 Oct.	Llanidloes
MEIRIONNYDD	8 April	Dinas Mawddwy		11 Oct.	Craig Ddrwg
CAERNARFON	14 April	Bardsey		**12 Sept.**	**Bardsey**
DENBIGH	5 April	near Gwynfryn		17 Oct.	Moel yr Accre
FLINT	**29 April**	**Hope**		12 Oct.	Bagillt

In the second winter period: GWENT: 158 on Mynydd Llangatwg on 27 Oct.; 300 at Newport Wetlands Reserve Goldcliff on 10 Nov. and 200 here on 20th; E.GLAMORGAN: 5000 at Lavernock Point on 16 Nov. and 2250 here on 17th; CARMARTHEN: 200 at Pal y Cŵrt on 26 Oct.; PEMBROKE: 127 over Skomer on 15 Nov.; CEREDIGION: 1424 passed Ynyslas on 16 Nov.; BRECON: 1000 south down the Claerwen valley on 19 Oct.; 2500 over Tŷ Segur, near Llanwrthwl, on 20 Oct.; 300 at the Cwm on 21 Oct.; MEIRIONNYDD: 120 at Cwm Cywarch on 11 Nov.; ANGLESEY: 300 at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 30 Oct. and 3 Nov.; DENBIGH: 1000 near Bryneglwys on 30 Oct.

REDWING *Turdus iliacus* COCH DAN ADAIN

Abundant winter visitor and passage migrant; particularly numerous in severe winters. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	**1662**	**1825**
% of BirdTrack lists	**8%**	**9%**

Large counts (120+) in the first winter period, incl. several >1000 during cold weather in early March: GWENT: 300 at Porton on 7 Jan.; 200 at Redwick on 28 Jan.; 205 over Pentre-poeth on 1 March and 161 here on 2nd; 500-1000 around Caldicot Castle in early March; 1200 over Newport Wetlands Reserve Goldcliff on 18 March; E.GLAMORGAN: 250 on Watermill flood on 9 Feb.; 10,000 west over Ogmore on 2 March; 8000 over Cardiff Bay on 2 March; GOWER: 120 at Henllys on 17 Feb.; 250 at Rhossili on 4 March; 200 at Singleton Park on 4 March; 120 at Margam on 4 March; CARMARTHEN: several reports of 150+, incl. 1000 east at Cefn Sidan, 300 at Pwll and Pembrey Burrows, and 350 at Penclacwydd during the first week of March; PEMBROKE: 1000 at Llanychaer on 1 March; 1000 at Landshipping on 2 March; 7500 over Skomer on 2 March and up to 270/day here in next four days; CEREDIGION: 500 at Teifi Marshes in Jan.; 200 at Ynyslas in Feb.; MEIRIONNYDD: hundreds moving between Blaenau Ffestiniog and Llwyngwril on 3 March; ANGLESEY: 150 at Llanfihangel yn Nhowyn on 12 and 15 Feb.; FLINT: 250 near Dyserth on 6 Jan.; 400 at Oakenholt on 17 Jan.

In the second winter period: GWENT: 150 at Newport Wetlands Reserve Uskmouth on 17 Nov. and 1000 here on 18th; several thousand east over Caerleon on 18 Nov.; E.GLAMORGAN: up to 4000 at Lavernock Point on 5 Nov. and 870 here on 12 Dec.; GOWER: 1200 northwest over Margam on 14 Nov.; CEREDIGION: up to 150 in Cwm Einion in Nov.; 568 at Ynyslas on 16 Nov.; BRECON: 500 east over Brecon on 18 Nov.; MONTGOMERY: 135 near Machynlleth on 30 Oct.; MEIRIONNYDD: 200 at Craig Ddrwg, Rhinogau, on 11

Oct.; DENBIGH: 1000 near Maerdy on 28 Oct.; 450 at Llangollen on 5 Nov.; FLINT: 270 at Gwernymynydd on 5 Nov.

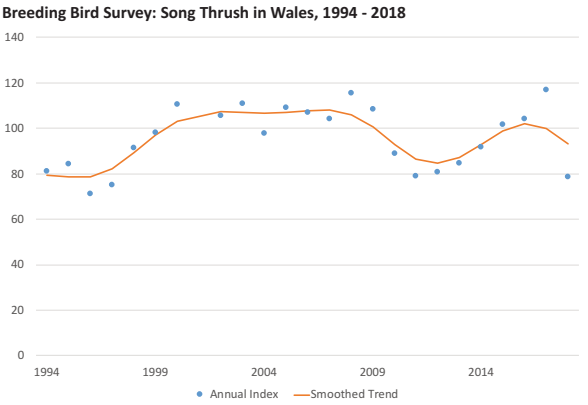
Latest and earliest reports in each county:

	Latest	Site		Earliest	Site
GWENT	**21 April**	**Lower Minnetts Wood**		6 Oct.	Cefn Hengoed
E.GLAMORGAN				4 Oct.	Rudry Common
GOWER	18 March	four locations		15 Oct.	Swansea Vale
CARMARTHEN	8 April	Penclacwydd		28 Sept.	Felinfoel
PEMBROKE	18 March	Freshwater West		14 Oct.	Llanychaer
CEREDIGION	30 March	no location provided		3 Oct.	no location provided
BRECON	24 March	Llangorse Lake		8 Oct.	Libanus & Llanwrthwl
MONTGOMERY	10 April	Moel-y-Garth		9 Oct.	Llanidloes
MEIRIONNYDD	23 March	Pont Croesor		8 Oct.	Bala
CAERNARFON	7 April	Bardsey		**26 Sept.**	**Trefriw**
ANGLESEY	15 March	Cemlyn		10 Oct.	Holyhead
DENBIGH	30 March	Penycae		5 Oct.	Penycae
FLINT	12 April	Pantymwyn		11 Oct.	near Bagillt

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos* BRONFRAITH

Widely distributed and fairly common resident, formerly abundant. Winter visitor and passage migrant. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	**5468**	**4623**
% of BirdTrack lists	**30%**	**24%**



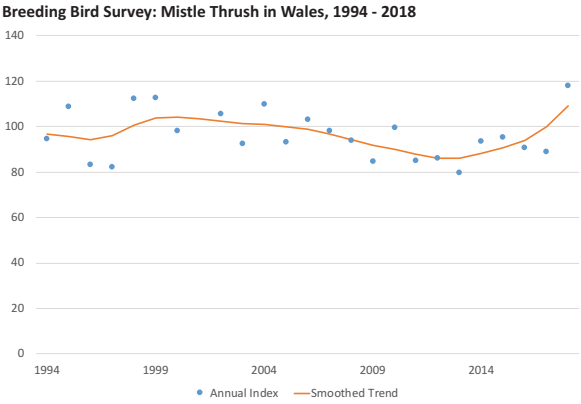
A sharp drop in the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales in 2018, just a year after a record high in 2017, perhaps many fell victim to the 'Beast from the East'. Nonethless, numbers remain 27% higher than in 1994, a trend reflected across much of the UK.

Counts of 30+: E.GLAMORGAN: 30 at Lavernock Point on 17 Oct.; PEMBROKE: 62 on Skokholm on 24 Nov.; MEIRIONNYDD: 40 around Aberdyfi/Tywyn on 3 March; CAERNARFON: 94 on Bardsey on 27 Oct. and 58 on 28th; ANGLESEY: 50 at Llyn Rhos Ddu on 10 Jan.

MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus* BRYCH Y COED

Fairly common resident; many young birds emigrate in their first autumn. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	2882	2603
% of BirdTrack lists	15%	13%



A significant increase over the previous year's Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales is in stark contrast to the Song Thrush, and takes the trendline to its highest level since the survey began in 1994.

Large flocks (20+): GOWER: 26 over Morfa Tip on 18 July; 28 at Bracelet Bay on 5 Nov.; 30 over Margam Abbey on 25 Nov.; CARMARTHEN: 33 at Llanedi on 5 Aug.; CEREDIGION: 36 at Llyn Eiddwen on 7 Oct.; BRECON: 67 at Llangasty on 22 July; MONTGOMERY: 27 near Llanidloes on 8 Aug.; FLINT: 21 near Bagillt on 15 Oct.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata* GWYBEDOG MANNOG

Once a common summer visitor, now declining; passage migrant in May and August/September. Wales Red listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	313	326
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%

Breeding: GWENT: confirmed at five sites; E.GLAMORGAN: confirmed at only two sites; GOWER: bred at Pontneddfechan, probably at Cwm Maelog and present at four other sites; PEMBROKE: reported from 23 locations, breeding evidence from four of these; CEREDIGION: pairs at 12 locations; BRECON: present at 36 locations, nearly half of these involving pairs that bred;

Earliest and latest reports in each county:

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	20 April	Pen-y-Clawdd		26 Sept.	Penallt
E.GLAMORGAN	5 May	Pant-yr-Awel		29 Sept.	Cosmeston Lakes CP
GOWER	12 May	Heol Cae'r Bont		3 Sept.	Mewslade
CARMARTHEN	11 May	Penclacwydd		30 Sept.	Penclacwydd
PEMBROKE	30 April	Skokholm		1 Oct.	Skokholm
CEREDIGION	9 May	Cwm Einion		17 Sept	Ynyslas
BRECON	6 May	Llanwrthwl		9 Sept.	Pengenffordd
RADNOR	4 May	no location provided		19 Sept.	no location provided
MONTGOMERY	5 May	Lake Vyrnwy			
MEIRIONNYDD	**16 April**	**Coed Felinrhyd**		20 Aug.	Dolgellau
CAERNARFON	29 April	Bardsey		**14 Oct.**	**Bardsey**
ANGLESEY	5 May	Carmel Head		19 Aug.	Breakwater CP
DENBIGH	15 May	near Gwynfryn		14 Aug.	Burton
FLINT	7 June	Gronant		21 Sept.	Bagillt

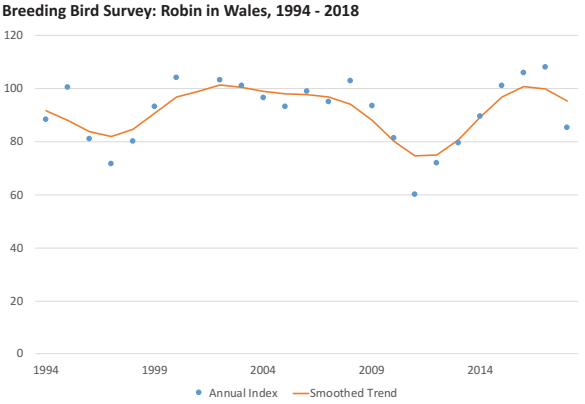
MEIRIONNYDD: confirmed at three sites, probable at one and possible at seven; ANGLESEY: one pair successful at RSPB Cors Ddyga; DENBIGH: confirmed at three sites.

Notable passage counts: PEMBROKE: 15 at St. David's Head on 27 May; 12 on Skokholm on 27 May; 15 on Skokholm on 2 Sept.; 12 on Skomer on 2 Sept.; CAERNARFON: 115 on Bardsey on 26 May, 80 here on 2 June, 20 on 20 Aug. and 39 on 3 Sept.; ANGLESEY: 12 at Carmel Head on 27 May; 17 at RSPB South Stack on 27 May.

ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula* ROBIN GOCH

Common and widespread resident in all counties and a passage migrant. Wales Green listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	12123	10973
% of BirdTrack lists	66%	59%



The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales shows that this is another species whose occurrence dropped compared to 2017, probably a result of the icy conditions in March. But the long-term trend is stable, despite weather-induced fluctuations.

Large counts (20+): E.GLAMORGAN: 25 in Tirfounder fields on 11 Jan.; 23 in Bute Park on 3 Feb.; 60 at Lavernock Point on 17 Oct.; GOWER: 29 along 3.5km of R.Clydach at Bryncoch on 14 April; CARMARTHEN: 30 territories at Penclacwydd (*cf*. 37 in 2017); PEMBROKE: 84 on Skokholm on 7 Oct.; 48 on Skomer on 14 Oct.; CAERNARFON: 40 at Betws y Coed on 1 Sept.; 35 on Bardsey on 20 Sept., 44 here on 27th, 37 on 1 Oct. and similar numbers daily to 15th; ANGLESEY: 25 at Cemlyn on 10 Oct.

BLUETHROAT *Luscinia svecica* BRONLAS

Scarce visitor breeding in Scandinavia (red-spotted) and the rest of Europe (white-spotted). WBRC: 48 previous records.

CAERNARFON: a male, white-spotted, caught and ringed on Bardsey on 26 May.

PIED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula hypoleuca* GWYBEDOG BRITH

Common but declining summer visitor in most mainland counties. Earlier leaf burst owing to warmer springs leads to earlier emergence of caterpillars, leading to mismatch with eggs hatching. Wales Red listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	392	374
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%

Selected breeding records: GWENT: bred at four sites; CARMARTHEN: six pairs bred in boxes at Abbey Woods, Whitland; CEREDIGION: six singing males at Denmark Farm; 10 territories at Longwood-Bettws Bledrws; BRECON: 20 pairs bred in boxes at Trawsnant and 13 at Llanafan Fawr; MEIRIONNYDD: confirmed at three sites, probable or possible at 31; CAERNARFON: confirmed at three sites; DENBIGH: present at 10 sites; FLINT: bred at three sites.

Nest productivity, assessed by nestbox monitoring projects, was 4.74 fledged young/nest, lower than the average in 2017 (*cf*. 5.6 fledged young/nest).

Site, county	*Pairs*	*Young fledged*	*Fledged young/nest*	*Fledged young/nest 2017*
Cwm Clydach, GOWER	29	87	3.0	4.1
Halfway, CARMARTHEN	34	219	6.44	6.9
RSPB Ynys-hir, CEREDIGION	31	105	3.4	2.4
RSPB Lake Vyrnwy, MEIRIONNYDD	115	520	4.52	
Coed Crafnant, MEIRIONNYDD	48	287	6.0	4.89
Gwaith Powdwr, MEIRIONNYDD	5	21	4.2	5.86
Five sites in DENBIGH and FLINT	45	217	4.82	4.76

Earliest and latest reports in each county:

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	16 April	Magor Marsh		1 July	Goytre House Wood
E.GLAMORGAN	7 April	Kenfig NNR		29 Sept.	Cosmeston Lakes CP
GOWER	18 April	Cwm Philip Margam		2 Sept.	Middleton
CARMARTHEN	8 April	Ffarmers		3 Aug.	Penclacwydd
PEMBROKE	13 April	Skomer		27 Sept.	Whitesands Bay
CEREDIGION	9 April	RSPB Ynys-hir			
BRECON	8 April	The Cwm, Llanwrthwl		8 Aug.	Libanus
RADNOR	4 April	no location provided		8 Sept.	no location provided
MONTGOMERY	8 April	Foel & Pwll Penarth			
MEIRIONNYDD	**19 March**	**Farchynys**		11 Aug.	Dinas Mawddwy
CAERNARFON	9 April	Rowen		**15 Oct.**	**Bardsey**
DENBIGH	14 April	Llangollen		27 Aug.	near Llanfair Talhaiarn
FLINT	19 April	Connah's Quay NR		30 June	Moel Arthur

RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula parva* GWYBEDOG BRONGOCH

Rare vagrant, breeds in Scandinavia and eastern Europe. WBRC: 198 previous records.

Singles: PEMBROKE: 1CY on Skomer on 9 Oct.; CAERNARFON: Bardsey on 27 May.

BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochruros* TINGOCH DU

Spring and autumn passage migrant. Winter visitor in small numbers. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	155	251
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Breeding season: several of these were probably late migrants, but those in Breconshire and Radnorshire may both have been on territory. E.GLAMORGAN: one at Wenvoe Quarry on 13 May; one at Cwm Cadlan NR on 8 July; BRECON: singing male at a regular site in the Brecon Beacons on 29 April, still present three weeks later; RADNOR: upper Wye valley on 6 June; ANGLESEY: Rhosneigr on 14 May.

First winter period, single birds unless otherwise stated: GWENT: Monmouth on 7 Feb.; Newport Docks on 15 Feb.; singles on passage at Magor, Newport Wetlands Reserve Uskmouth and three at Peterstone during 20-24 March; Sudbrook on 14 April; E.GLAMORGAN: 10 locations; GOWER: Lewes Castle on 11 Jan.; Port Talbot on 19-24 March; CARMARTHEN: Llanelli on 26 Jan. and 8 March; Carmarthen on 26 Jan. and from 24 Feb. to 3 March; Llansteffan on 18 March; CEREDIGION: New Quay on 6 and 18 Jan.; Aberystwyth on 1 March and 13 April; MONTGOMERY: Guilsfield on 2-3 April; MEIRIONNYDD: two at Barmouth on 21 March; Farchynys on 22 March; CAERNARFON: two at Llanrhos on 8 Jan.; Foryd on 3 March; Aberdaron from 13 Feb. to 29 March; 1-2 on Great Orme on 7-24 April; on Bardsey on several dates between 27 March and 26 May; ANGLESEY: three locations; FLINT: Connah's Quay NR on 1 Jan. and 1 Feb.; three at Buckley on 22 Jan., two here on 30th and one on 13 Feb.

In the second winter period: GWENT: two at Newport Wetlands Saltmarsh on 19 Oct.; 1-2 at Newport Wetlands Reserve Goldcliff in Dec.; E.GLAMORGAN: five locations, incl. three at Gileston on 25 Dec.; GOWER: Rhossili from 22 Nov. to 10 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: Carmarthen Bay on 11 and 16 Dec.; Burry Port on 20 Dec.; CEREDIGION: Aberystwyth on 11 Nov. and 26 Dec.; Teifi est. on 13 Nov.; New Quay on 4-29 Dec.; BRECON: Fan Bwlch Chwyth quarry on 14 Oct.; Claerwen Dam on 12 Nov.; MEIRIONNYDD: Mawddach est. on 10 Dec.; CAERNARFON: 1-2 on Great Orme from 27 July to 17 Sept., and singles here on 12 Nov. and 14 Dec.; at three other sites in Sept. to Nov.; on Bardsey on 26 July, 16 Oct., up to four on 19-23 Oct., two on 28th, and singles on 30th and 6 Nov.; ANGLESEY: six locations; DENBIGH: two at Kinmel Bay on 3 Dec., one to 19th; FLINT: Connah's Quay NR and RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 2 Aug.; Halkyn on 21-24 Nov.

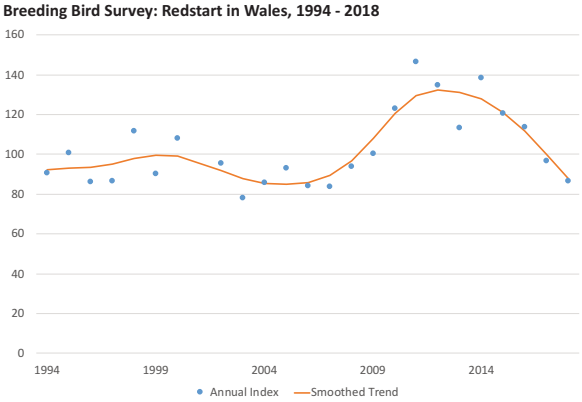
Also, PEMBROKE: reported from at least 32 1-km square locations in 2018.

REDSTART *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* TINGOCH

Numerous summer visitor in deciduous woodland and ffridd in many parts of upland Wales. Locally common elsewhere; scarce in Anglesey and Pembrokeshire. Wales Green listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	606	618
% of BirdTrack lists	3%	3%

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales has dropped 25% in the last five years, back close to its 1994 baseline and somewhat different to the growth during the 2008-11 breeding Atlas.



Earliest and latest reports in each county:

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	6 April	Llanwern Steelworks		**20 Oct.**	**Bedwas**
E.GLAMORGAN	8 April	Cosmeston Lakes CP		15 Oct.	Bridgend
GOWER	13 April	Swansea Vale		15 Oct.	Graig Goch Margam
CARMARTHEN	20 April	Pal y Cŵrt		19 July	Cwrt y Cadno
PEMBROKE	3 April	Skokholm		16 Oct.	Skomer
CEREDIGION	9 April	RSPB Ynys-hir		11 Sept.	RSPB Ynys-hir
BRECON	5 April	The Login, Beacons		5 Sept.	The Cwm, Llanwrthwl
MONTGOMERY	18 April	Cwm Nant y Meichiad & Rhos y Brithdir		5 Sept.	Llyn Clywedog
MEIRIONNYDD	**18 March**	**Farchynys**		18 Aug.	Cwm Cywarch
CAERNARFON	13 April	Bardsey		18 Oct.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	15 April	Cemlyn		10 Oct.	Cemlyn
DENBIGH	14 April	Llanddulas		22 Aug.	Maes-Tyddyn
FLINT	14 April	Penycloddiau		12 Sept.	Hendre

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra* CREC YR EITHIN

Summer breeding visitor; now predominantly a species of upland areas. Declining. Wales Red listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	**216**	**250**
% of BirdTrack lists	**<1%**	**1%**

Breeding: GWENT: singing birds/occupied territories at 10 locations; E.GLAMORGAN: bred at two sites, probably at one other; GOWER: 2-3 pairs at Cwm Nant y Fedw NR; CARMARTHEN: about five pairs present; PEMBROKE: present on Brynberian Moor; CEREDIGION: eight singing males along the R.Camddwr; 17 singing males at upper Cwm Doethie; BRECON: 23 occupied territories on bracken slopes surveyed in the Black Mountains; 10 on part of Fan Frynich NNR; six at RSPB Carngafallt; 30 territories elsewhere; MEIRIONNYDD: present at 17 sites, incl. four pairs and eight singing males; CAERNARFON: present at eight sites with nest-building at Llyn Eigiau and fledged young above Llanfairfechan; DENBIGH: bred at three locations.

Earliest and latest reports in each county:

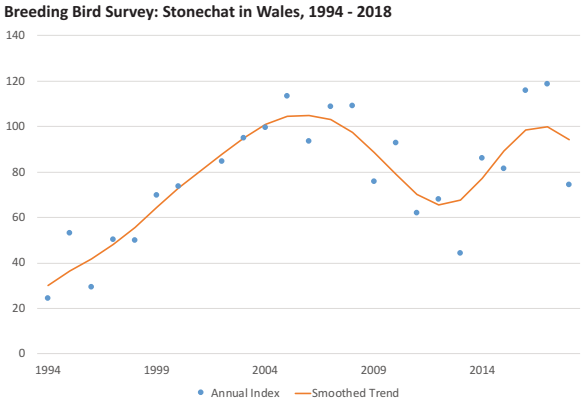
	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	19 April	Varteg		18 Oct.	Caldicot Levels
E.GLAMORGAN	21 April	Cwm Cadlan		10 Oct.	Gileston
GOWER	12 May	Cwm Nant y Fedw NR		29 Sept.	Whiteford Sands
CARMARTHEN	4 May	Llyn Brianne		17 Oct.	Kidwelly
PEMBROKE	**5 April**	**Carn Llidi**		**21 Oct.**	**Skokholm**
CEREDIGION	3 May	Ynyslas		19 Oct.	Llanon
BRECON	19 April	Crai		12 Sept.	Llangorse Lake
MONTGOMERY	5 May	RSPB Lake Vyrnwy			
MEIRIONNYDD	8 April	Cwm Cywarch			
CAERNARFON	17 April	Great Orme		23 Sept.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	21 April	Carmel Head		6 Oct.	RSPB Cors Ddyga
DENBIGH	21 April	Rhewl		2 Sept.	Nant-y-Ffrith Res.
FLINT	24 April	Connah's Quay NR		17 Aug.	Connah's Quay NR

STONECHAT *Saxicola rubricola* CLOCHDAR Y CERRIG

Breeding resident, locally common in coastal areas and spreading inland. Wales Green listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	2785	2358
% of BirdTrack lists	14%	12%

A sharp drop (-37%) in the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales following its 2017 high and a 14% drop in the number of registrations on BirdTrack lists during the year. Stonechats got caught out by the 'Beast from the East', with many birds forced to lower altitudes shortly after they had returned to upland breeding areas in March. Nonetheless, the index is on a par with a decade ago, and 173% higher than that of 1994.



Spring passage: max. counts where provided: E.GLAMORGAN: 10 at Aberthaw on 18 March; CAERNARFON: 15 at Uwchmynydd on 19 April; DENBIGH: 10 at RSPB Conwy on 8 March; FLINT: seven at Connah's Quay NR on 8 March.

Autumn passage: GOWER: 16 at Crymlyn Burrows on 29 Aug.; eight at Margam Moors on 17 Oct.; CEREDIGION: 32 at Ynys Tachwedd/Ynyslas on 24 Sept.; CAERNARFON: 20 on Bardsey on 30 Aug. and 20 on 24 Sept.; 10 at Uwchmynydd on 5 Nov.

SIBERIAN/STEJNEGER'S STONECHAT *Saxicola maurus/stejnegeri*

CLOCHDAR Y CERRIG SIBERIA/STEJNEGER

Rare vagrant from Siberia, but cannot be safely separated to species level in the field. BBRC: nine previous records.

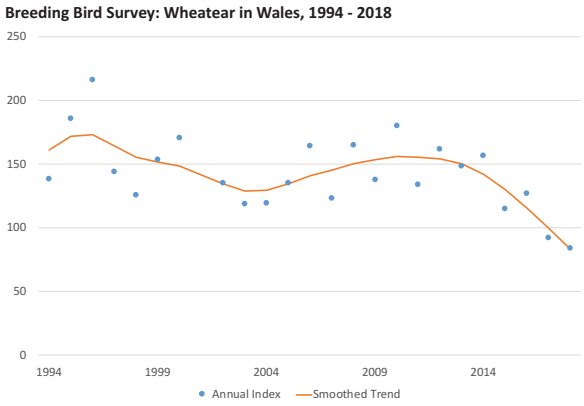
CAERNARFON: 1CY female on Bardsey on 16-18 Oct.

WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe* TINWEN Y GARN

Summer visitor and passage migrant. Locally common, favouring upland areas with sheep-grazed turf. Wales Green listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	1420	1295
% of BirdTrack lists	6%	5%

This is a bird in trouble. As suggested in last year's Report, the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales fell further, to another new low, 42% below its 1994 level, and down 35% in just the last five years.



Earliest and latest reports in each county:

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	13 March	Newport Wetlands Reserve		4 Oct.	Mynydd Llangatwg
E.GLAMORGAN	12 March	no location provided		17 Oct.	Cwm Nash
GOWER	16 March	Whiteford & Aberavon		19 Oct.	Brunel Docks
CARMARTHEN	12 March	Machynys		22 Oct.	Pembrey Harbour
PEMBROKE	13 March	St. David's Head		**11 Nov.**	**Dinas Mountain**
CEREDIGION	11 March	New Quay & Llanon		21 Oct.	Llansantffraed & Gwbert
BRECON	25 March	Blaen Dyffryn & Twr Pen-Cyrn		4 Oct.	Twr Pen-Cyrn, Mynydd Llangattock
RADNOR	11 March	no location provided		25 Oct.	no location provided
MONTGOMERY	5 April	Lake Vyrnwy & Dylife			
MEIRIONNYDD	13 March*	Porthmadog & Llyn Cwm Bychan		7 Oct.	Llanbedr Airfield
CAERNARFON	**6 March**	**Conwy Mountain**		19 Oct.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	15 March	Aberffraw & South Stack		17 Oct.	The Range & Soldier's Point
DENBIGH	18 March	RSPB Conwy		20 Oct.	Llanddulas
FLINT	19 March	Rhyl		14 Oct.	Connah's Quay NR

*excludes one on Caer Drewyn, Corwen, on 17-19 Jan.

Spring passage counts (10+): GWENT: 14 at Newport Wetlands Reserve Uskmouth in April; E.GLAMORGAN:

12 at Ogmore-by-Sea on 20 March; CARMARTHEN: 20 at Garreg Lwyd on 23 April; PEMBROKE: 75 on Skokholm on 30 April; CEREDIGION: 10 at Tanybwlch on 12 April; 24 at Llanrhystud on 22 April; 11 at Ynyslas on 4 May; MEIRIONNYDD: 50 at Dyfi Junction on 29 April; CAERNARFON: 30 on Conwy Mountain on 5 April; ANGLESEY: 18 at RSPB South Stack on 5 April; DENBIGH: 12 on Ruabon Mountain on 8 May; FLINT: 25 at Penycloddiau on 8 April.

Autumn passage counts (10+): GWENT: 10 at Peterstone Wentlooge on 5 Sept.; E.GLAMORGAN: 15 at Sker on 23 Sept.; GOWER: 20 near Weobley on 23 Sept.; CARMARTHEN: 12 at Garreg Lwyd on 29 Sept.; CEREDIGION: 28 at Gwbert on 2 Sept.; PEMBROKE: 62 on Skokholm on 4 Aug.; CAERNARFON: max. day count 62 on Bardsey on 12 Sept.

***O.o. leucorhoa* (Greenland Wheatear / Tinwen y Garn yr Ynys Las)**
Birds showing characteristics of the Greenland race (singles unless otherwise stated): GWENT: two at Newport Wetlands Reserve Saltmarsh on 4 May; two at Peterstone Gout on 7 May; E.GLAMORGAN: two at Cardiff Bay on 30 April; two at Rhymney Great Wharf on 2 May; seven at Ogmore Down on 9 May; CARMARTHEN: three at Garreg Lwyd on 22 April; BRECON: three on Abergwesyn Common on 6 May; two at Llangorse Lake on 7 May; Crai on 8 May; Fan Frynych NNR on 10 May; CAERNARFON: almost all of a wave on Bardsey in late April were considered to be of this race, incl. 96 on 29 April and 137 on 30th; ANGLESEY: 11 on The Range on 10 May; DENBIGH: three at RSPB Conwy on 27 April; two at Cefn-Brith on 7 May; FLINT: three at Rhuddlan on 4 May.

DIPPER *Cinclus cinclus* BRONWEN Y DWR

Common resident of fast flowing streams, particularly in hill areas. In winter some individuals move into the lowlands and also make use of estuaries, rocky coasts and lake edges. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	800	773
% of BirdTrack lists	4%	3%

Selected breeding season records: GWENT: nests with eggs/young at 11 sites on the R.Honddu and at four on the R.Monnow; 70 nestlings were ringed; E.GLAMORGAN: confirmed at three sites, probable or possible at 16 more; GOWER: bred at 14 sites, probably at four and present at five others; CARMARTHEN: only one of 17 monitored pairs had a second attempt; average productivity of 4.6 young in 10 nests was high; PEMBROKE: reported from 17 1-km squares, with breeding evidence in three of these; BRECON: *c*.25 apparently occupied territories, probably at two more; MEIRIONNYDD: bred at four sites, probably at seven and possibly at a further 10; CAERNARFON: present at many sites, but breeding confirmed at only one; DENBIGH: from six attempts near Llangollen, 17 young fledged, 2.83 young/nest.

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus* ADERYN Y TO

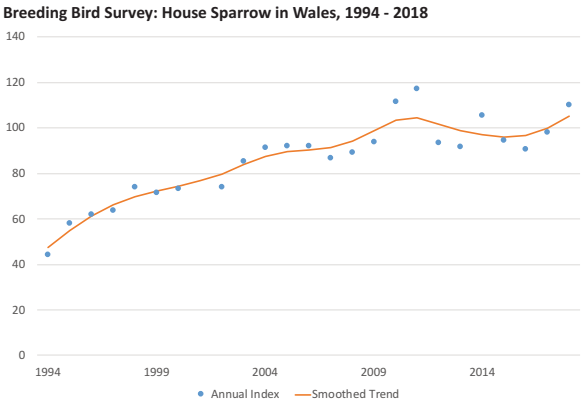
Resident, breeding throughout Wales in all counties. Not ubiquitous, however, and absent from many upland settlements. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	6669	7148
% of BirdTrack lists	36%	38%

Until 2010, the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales had shown sustained growth, since when it has levelled out, but still 82% above its 1994 level.

Large counts (70+) include: E.GLAMORGAN: 80 in Cardiff on 14 Aug.; GOWER: 110 at the Viel, Rhossili, on 7 Aug.; 70 at Cwmrhydyceirw on 2 March; CARMARTHEN: 80 at Llanedi on 8 Dec.; PEMBROKE: 95 at West

Hook Farm on 20 Aug.; BRECON: 74 in a Libanus garden in Feb. and 82 here in Oct.; ANGLESEY: 100 at Cemlyn on 7 Aug.; DENBIGH: 100-120 at Towyn during first winter period and max. 250 here on 17 Sept.; FLINT: 85 at Buckley on 16 April and 94 here on 18 May; 100 at Drury on 27 Aug.



TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus* GOLFAN Y MYNYDD

Breeding resident in small numbers with a patchy distribution. Absent from most western areas. Declining in most areas. Wales Red listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	33	45
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

All records: GWENT: pair at former colony at Porton failed to breed successfully; E.GLAMORGAN: one at Rudry on 7 Jan. was the first county record since 2015; GOWER: at the Viel, Rhossili, on 24 Oct.; CARMARTHEN: one at garden feeders at Dryslwyn between 20 Jan. and 24 April, then two here on 25 March and 24 April; PEMBROKE: singles on Skokholm on 26 May and 29 Sept.; two at Strumble Head on 29 Sept.; CEREDIGION: one at Llanrhystud on 18 May; one at Ynyslas on 11 Oct.; BRECON: 1-2 near Garthbrengy on six dates between Feb. and July; one in Pwllgloyw on 26 Dec.; MONTGOMERY: regular in a Montgomery garden all year; four in Newtown on 25 March; three at Wern on 5 April; present at Dolydd Hafren from 24 Oct. to 2 Dec., max. 35 on 18 Nov.; ANGLESEY: one at Cemlyn on 22 May; six near Bryngwran on 23 May; small flock at Cemlyn from 15 Sept. to year end, max. six on 10 Oct.; DENBIGH: five at Froncysyllte on 19 April; two near Holt on 24 Dec.; FLINT: regular in a Cilcain garden all year; two at Sandycroft on 7 Feb.; two at Connah's Quay NR on 6 Nov.

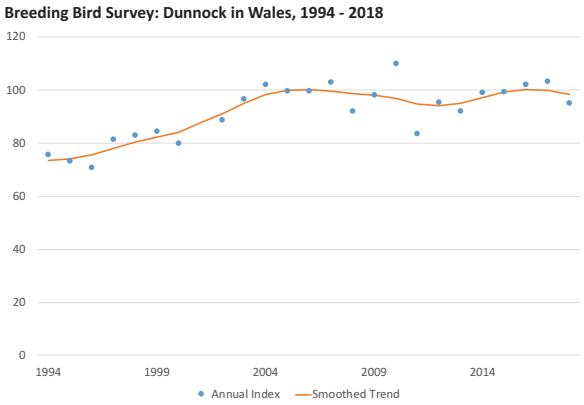
DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis* LLWYD Y GWRYCH

Abundant breeding resident. Passage migrant and possible winter visitor in small numbers. Wales Green listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	8194	7597
% of BirdTrack lists	45%	41%

Although it fell a little on the previous year, the Breeding Bird Survey index has remained very steady over the last decade, and is 35% up on its 1994 baseline (see next page).

Notable counts: E.GLAMORGAN: 11 at Forest Farm on 7 Feb.; 15 at Tirfounder Fields on 16 Feb.; 11 at Hendre Lake on 6 March; up to 14 at Kenfig NNR on various dates; CARMARTHEN: 54 territories at Penclacwydd (*cf*. 60 in 2017); PEMBROKE: 30 at Westfield Pill on 13 March; BRECON: 15 in winter birdcrop at Pennorth on 10 Dec.; DENBIGH: 10 at Nant-y-Glyn on 22 Feb.; FLINT: 11 near Mold on 22 April.



YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava flavissima* SIGLEN FELEN

Passage migrant in decreasingly small numbers, and now sporadic breeding bird, usually in southeast Wales. Wales Red listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	142	130
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Breeding: present at seven sites, two confirmed nests. GWENT: present at Llandenny, Llanbadoc and Llandegfedd Res.; two pairs at Llanvair Kilgeddin, the nest of one found with eggs on 7 June; young fed at a nest near Osbaston; BRECON: probably bred at Glasbury; MONTGOMERY: present at Dolydd Hafren from 16 April to 17 June.

Notable passage: GWENT: 20 at Newport Wetlands Reserve on 2 Sept., 20 here on 4th and 30 on 16th; E.GLAMORGAN: max. 20 at Monknash on 28 Aug.; 25 at Sker Point on 2 Sept.; 20 at Rhymney Great Wharf on 4 Sept.; PEMBROKE: 12 at St. Ann's Head on 30 Aug.

Earliest and latest reports in each county:

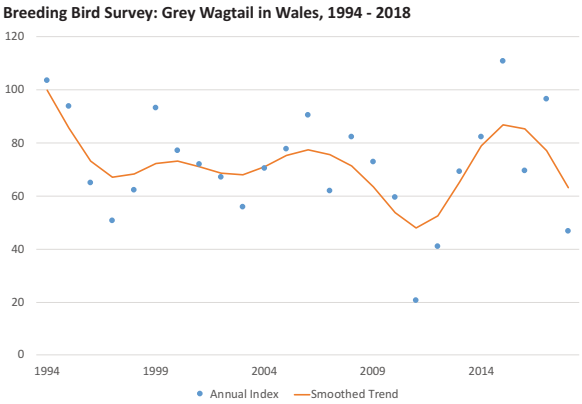
	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	**10 April**	**Newport Wetlands Reserve**		29 Sept.	Newport Wetlands Reserve & St Brides
E.GLAMORGAN				23 Sept.	Sker Pt.
GOWER				2 Sept.	Margam Moors & Pennard
CARMARTHEN				1 Sept.	Penclacwydd
PEMBROKE	5 May	Skokholm		**19 Oct.**	**Skomer**
CEREDIGION	28 May	Llanrhystud			
BRECON	29 April	Llangorse Lake		3 Sept.	Llangorse Common
RADNOR	17 April	no location provided		19 Sept.	no location provided
MONTGOMERY	16 April	Dolydd Hafren			
MEIRIONNYDD	14 April	Aberdysynni			
CAERNARFON	21 April	Bardsey		29 Sept.	Lôn Las, Rhiw
ANGLESEY	20 April	RSPB Cors Ddyga			
DENBIGH	20 April	RSPB Conwy		6 July	Trevalyn Meadows
FLINT	18 April	Connah's Quay NR		19 Sept.	Gronant dunes

***M.f. flava* (Blue-headed Wagtail / Siglen Felen Benlas)**
CAERNARFON: one on Bardsey on 21 April; ANGLESEY: one at Cemlyn on 18 May.

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea* SIGLEN LWYD

Locally common breeding resident, mainly along fast-flowing streams in all mainland counties of Wales. Increasing but very scarce on Anglesey. Most move away from hills in the autumn and either emigrate or frequent sites on lower ground. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	1750	1602
% of BirdTrack lists	8%	8%



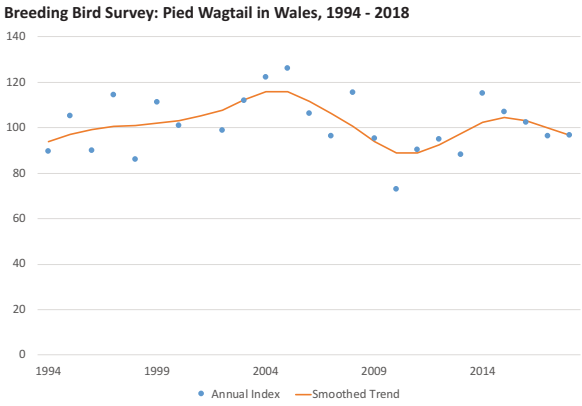
This is a very 'noisy' graph, with significant variation from year to year in the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales. This species saw the biggest fall of any species since 2017, at least in part related to the 'Beast from the East' in March. The 10-year trend is level, however, despite the intervening fluctuations.

Counts (10+ birds): E.GLAMORGAN: 12 over Lavernock Point on 5 Sept.; 20 over Cardiff Bay on 5 Sept.; PEMBROKE: 10 on Skokholm on 24 Sept.; CEREDIGION: 10 south at Ynyslas on 24 Sept. and 13 here on 28th; CAERNARFON: 17 on Bardsey on 30 Aug., 33 on 31st, 23 on 20 Sept. and 10 on 10 Oct.

PIED WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba yarrellii* SIGLEN FRAITH

Common and widespread breeding resident in many habitats. Autumn passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales Green listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	5310	4989
% of BirdTrack lists	28%	26%



The Breeding Bird Survey index has fluctuated around a stable mean during the last 24 years, though the proportion of BirdTrack lists including Pied Wagtail has fallen from 32% in 2015.

Highest counts (100+) of *yarrellii*: E.GLAMORGAN: 250 in Cardiff city centre on 19 Jan.; 110 at Lletty Brongu WTW, Maesteg, on 1 Feb.; 120 at Lavernock Point on 28 Sept. and 210 here on 17 Oct.; 100 at East Aberthaw

on 28 Sept.; 200 at Royal Glamorgan Hospital, Pontyclun, on 19 Oct.; PEMBROKE: 780 at Withybush Hospital on 27 Dec.; CEREDIGION: 356 south at Ynyslas on 16 Oct.; up to 130 roosted in Aberystwyth in Nov.; BRECON: 100 in Brecon on 12 Feb.; ANGLESEY: 100 roosted at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 30 Oct. and 200 here on 7 Nov.; CAERNARFON: 160 roosted at Tesco, Llandudno Junction, on 16 Feb.; 133 at Pen-yr-Ogof on 1 Sept.; 250 at Trefriw on 2 Sept.; FLINT: 115-120 at Flint WTW on 7-8 Jan.

***M.a.alba* (White Wagtail / Siglen Wen)**
Passage migrant in spring and autumn, mainly of Icelandic population.

Spring passage: GWENT: one at Redwick on 28 Jan.; four at Newport Wetlands Reserve on 8 April and up to 10 here until 5 May; 11 at St. Bride's Wentlooge on 14 April; E.GLAMORGAN: 28 at seven sites in April, max. eight at Cardiff Bay on 8th; GOWER: five at Llanmadoc on 16 April; CARMARTHEN: one at Penclacwydd on 12 March; two at Machynys on 7 April; six at Pembrey Burrows on 8 April; PEMBROKE: one at Mullock Bridge on 15 March; 24 at Porthlysgi on 8 April; eight at Newgale on 12 April; 30 at Teifi Marshes on 13 April; two at Llanunwas on 20 April; passage on Skokholm from 27 March to 5 May, max. seven on 21 April; CEREDIGION: coastal passage from 19 March to 28 May, with peak of 20 at Llanrhystud on 19 April; BRECON: two at Llangorse Lake on 29 April; MEIRIONNYDD: two at Penrhyndeudraeth on 30 March; three at Broadwater on 12 April; 60 at Aberdysynni on 14 April; five at Broadwater on 14 April; two at Moelyr Henfaes on 16 April; CAERNARFON: peak of 136 on Bardsey on 19 April; up to 10 at Morfa Aber during 16-29 April; 10 at Morfa Madryn on 19 April; one at Pwllheli on 29 April; ANGLESEY: two at Amlwch Port on 20 March; six at Cemlyn on 5 April; 20 at Llyn Traffwll on 16 April; large numbers at RSPB Cors Ddyga from 7 April to 3 May, max. 100 on 27th; DENBIGH: passage at RSPB Conwy from 4 April, peak of 70 on 20th; one at Llangollen on 29 April; FLINT: three at Gronant on 12 April and 30 here on 28th; up to eight at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh, and singles at Connah's Quay and Rhyl, in April.

Autumn passage: GWENT: between mid-July and 29 Sept. at Newport Wetlands Reserve Goldcliff counts included 10 on 25 Aug., 21 on 30th, 10 on 15 Sept. and 12 on 20th; E.GLAMORGAN: one at Sully beach on 31 Aug.; one in a Roath garden on 2 Nov.; GOWER: four at Port Eynon on 23 Sept.; PEMBROKE: passage on Skokholm from 23 Aug. to 27 Sept., max. 18 on 31 Aug.; up to four at four other sites; BRECON: singles at Llangorse Lake on 14 Aug. and 25 Sept.; one at Llanwrthwl on 25 Sept; four at Llangasty on 23 Oct.; MEIRIONNYDD: three at Penrhyndeudraeth on 17 Aug.; three at Tonfanau on 18 Sept.; CAERNARFON: 73 on Bardsey on 30 Aug., 79 on 31st and 36 on 1 Sept.; 13 at Porth Neigwl on 5 Sept.; up to six at four other sites; ANGLESEY: 12 at Henborth on 9 Sept.; DENBIGH: one at Llanddulas on 8 Aug.; one at RSPB Conwy on 1 Nov.

RICHARD'S PIPIT *Anthus richardi* CORHEDYDD RICHARD
Scarce autumn passage migrant.

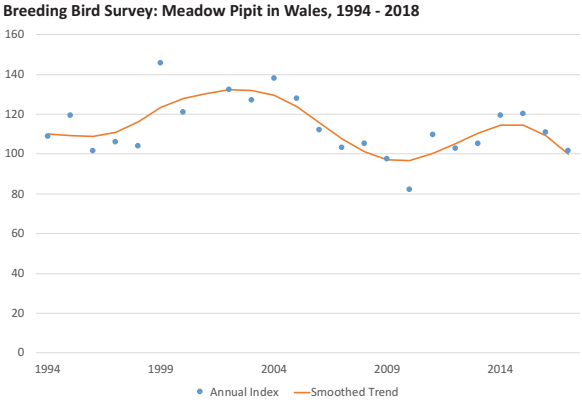
	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	0	7
% of BirdTrack lists	0%	<1%

PEMBROKE: one on Skokholm on 10 Oct.; CAERNARFON: singles on Bardsey on 18, 20 and 28 Oct.; ANGLESEY: one over Carmel Head on 14 Oct.

MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis* CORHEDYDD Y WAUN

Widespread and numerous breeding species, especially on moorland. Winter visitor and passage migrant. Most breeding birds are summer visitors. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	3923	3976
% of BirdTrack lists	20%	20%



The cyclical nature of Meadow Pipit populations is evident in the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales, with the cold weather in early spring interrupting the recovery that was being made following the snow of 2010. The trend is only 7% below its value of 10 years ago and 9% below its 1994 baseline.

Selected breeding records from surveys: MEIRIONNYDD: 191 birds recorded on upland survey at Tan yr Allt; CAERNARFON: 81 pairs on Bardsey, 23.6% lower than 2017. At least 72 fledged here.

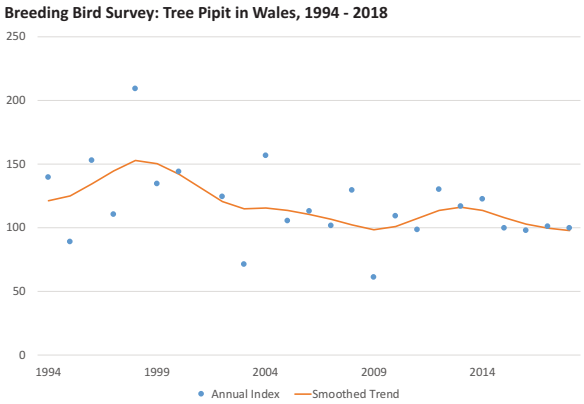
High counts (100+): GWENT: 400 at Newport Wetlands Reserve on 20 Sept., 340 on 23rd and 260 on 29th; E.GLAMORGAN: 200 at Ogmore est. on 2 March; 100 at Lavernock Point on 18 March; 100 on Sully Island on 18 March; 400 at East Aberthaw on 18 March and 28 Sept., and 150 here on 15 Oct.; 100 at Rhaslas Pond on 24 Sept.; 150 at Rhymney Great Wharf on 10 Oct.; GOWER: max. 100 on Margam Moors on 25 Aug.; CARMARTHEN: 100 at Pembrey Burrows on 25 Sept.; PEMBROKE: 205 on Skokholm on 30 Aug., 228 here on 20 Sept. and 222 on 23rd; 150 over Rosebush on 18 Oct.; CEREDIGION: 1000 passed Ynyslas on 24 March, 789 here on 28 Sept. and 230 on 6 Oct.; 150 at Mwnt on 31 Oct.; CAERNARFON: 176 on Bardsey on 25 March, 172 here on 4 April, 126 on 30 Aug., 337 on 5 Sept., 513 on 29th, 591 on 3 Oct. and 240 on 7th; ANGLESEY: 200 at Rhoscolyn on 14 April; FLINT: 100 at Connah's Quay NR on 14 Oct.

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis* CORHEDYDD Y COED

Widely distributed and locally numerous summer visitor. Passage migrant in fairly small numbers, most marked on the south coast in autumn. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	340	373
% of BirdTrack lists	2%	2%

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales in 2018 (overleaf) is fairly typical of the current century, but the trend is downward: -20% since 1994.



Earliest and latest reports in each county:

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	12 April	Aberbargoed		29 Sept.	Newport Wetlands Reserve
E.GLAMORGAN	1 April	Ogmore estuary		9 Sept.	Cosmeston Lakes CP
GOWER	18 April	Cymer & Cwm Philip		1 Sept.	Oxwich & Mewslade Valley
CARMARTHEN	10 April	Pwll		26 July	Garn Goch
PEMBROKE	20 April	Minwear		10 Oct.	Skokholm
CEREDIGION	22 April	Cross Inn & RSPB Ynys-hir		24 Sept.	Ynyslas
BRECON	18 April	Llwyncelyn YHA woods		11 Aug.	Usk Reservoir
RADNOR	4 April	no location provided		12 Sept.	no location provided
MEIRIONNYDD	9 April	Mawddach		30 Aug.	Dolgellau
CAERNARFON	12 April	Bardsey		**17 Oct.**	**Bardsey**
ANGLESEY	14 April	Cemlyn & Carmel Head			
DENBIGH	**31 March**	**Rhos-y-brithdir**		8 July	Llyn Bran
FLINT	8 April	near Penycloddiau		30 June	Moel Arthur

RED-THROATED PIPIT *Anthus cervinus* CORHEDYDD GYDDFGOCH

Rare visitor. WBRC: 13 previous records.

DENBIGH: 1CY+ flew over Upper Colwyn Bay on 10 Oct.

WATER PIPIT *Anthus spinoletta* CORHEDYDD Y DWR

Winter visitor in small numbers, mainly recorded in coastal areas but also, less frequently, inland. Passage migrant in small numbers. Wales Green listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	95	194
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

First winter period (single birds unless otherwise stated): GWENT: regular in Sluice Farm area of Peterstone Wentlooge with peaks of 10 on 2 and 20 Feb., nine on 24 March and six on 3 April; E.GLAMORGAN: Llwyn-onn Res. from 9 Jan. to 25 March; East Aberthaw on 12 Jan.; Barry Docks on 14 Jan.; Ogmore est. on 7 Feb.; GOWER: up to three at Neath est. on 11-13 Jan.; two at Llanrhidian on 4 Feb.; two each at Salthouse Point and Rhossili on 8 April;

CARMARTHEN: Penclacwydd from 1 Jan. to 16 Feb.; Llangennech Marsh on 3 March; PEMBROKE: Nevern est. on 25 Jan.; two at Newgale Marsh from 22 Jan. to 8 Feb., one remaining to 16 Feb.; CEREDIGION: singles at seven sites; three on the R.Clettwr in Jan.; two at New Quay on 5 April; CAERNARFON: Foryd on 17 Feb.; Llanengan on 24 Feb.; Pontllyfni on 11 March; two at Pwllheli on 26 Feb.; DENBIGH: RSPB Conwy in Jan. and March, last on 3 April; FLINT: up to two at Connah's Quay NR until 6 March.

Second winter period: GWENT: at Newport Wetlands Reserve and Peterstone Wentlooge from 12 Oct. with peaks of 10 on 10 Nov. and 12 on 24-25 Dec.; two at Ynysfro Res. from 24 Dec. to the year end; E.GLAMORGAN: Ogmore est. from 26 Oct. to 26 Nov.; Llwyn-onn Res. on 30 Oct. and 18 Nov.; East Aberthaw on 1-2 Nov. and two here on 13th; Rhymney Great Wharf on 14 Nov.; CARMARTHEN: Penclacwydd on 28 Sept. and 21 Oct., then up to five here from 5 Nov., eight on 9 Dec. and two remaining into 2019; PEMBROKE: Nevern est. from 30 Oct. to 27 Dec., and a second on 17 Dec.; Newgale Marsh on 1-26 Dec.; Skomer on 5-21 Nov.; CEREDIGION: Ynyslas from Oct. to Dec., and a second on 16 Dec.; one on Teifi est. in Oct.; large counts at Llanon in early Nov., max. 20 on 3rd; CAERNARFON: Bardsey on 24-28 Oct.; ANGLESEY: regular at RSPB Cors Ddyga, max. five on 4 Dec.; FLINT: Rhyl on 18 Nov.; Gronant Dunes on 22 Nov.

ROCK PIPIT *Anthus petrosus* CORHEDYDD Y GRAIG

Breeding resident of rocky coastlines in all coastal counties except Flintshire and Gwent. Winter visitor in small numbers. Wales Green listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	1302	1624
% of BirdTrack lists	7%	8%

Selected breeding records: E.GLAMORGAN: probably or possibly bred at eight sites; PEMBROKE: reported from at least 107 1-km squares, with breeding evidence from 29; CAERNARFON: 40 singing males/pairs on Bardsey, at least 45 juveniles fledged.

Counts (10+): E.GLAMORGAN: 10 at East Aberthaw on 11 Jan., 12 here on 25 Aug., 20 on 28 Sept. and 16 on 1 Nov.; 10 at Rhymney Great Wharf on 10 Oct.; 12 at Ogmore est. on 26 Oct.; 20 at Southerndown Cliffs on 18 Nov.; GOWER: 10 at Worm's Head on 4 Aug.; PEMBROKE: 77 on Skokholm on 23 Sept. and 78 on 15 Oct.; CAERNARFON: 31 on Bardsey in March, 39 in Aug. and Sept., and 53 in Oct.

***A.p.littoralis* (Scandinavian Rock Pipit / Corhedydd y Graig Llychlyn)**

Passage migrant, but probably under-recorded.

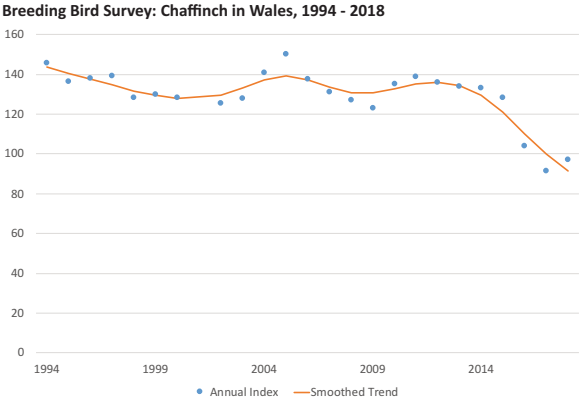
All singles unless otherwise stated: GWENT: Sluice Farm on 26-27 Dec.; GOWER: Neath est. on 11 Jan.; CAERNARFON: Morfa Aber on 12 March; two on Bardsey on 17 April.

Rock Pipit (Adrian Foster)

CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs* JI-BINC

Abundant resident, numerous passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales Green listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	8450	8037
% of BirdTrack lists	46%	43%



This is a trend that maybe going under most people's radar: the Breeding Bird Survey index has fallen by almost one-third since 1994, most of that in the last three years. The decline is steepest in Wales but is reflected in the trend across mainland Britain. The only regular census is on Bardsey, Caernarfonshire, where for the second year there were just two territorial pairs, markedly down from 11-12 pairs during 2012-15.

Passage was evident along the south and west coasts from mid October to late November.

Counts of 150+ in first winter period: GWENT: 200 at Llangybi throughout Jan.; GOWER: 400+ at the Viel, Rhossili, on 1 Jan.; CARMARTHEN: max. count 272 at Penlan Uchaf on 9 Jan.; PEMBROKE: 300 at Marloes Mere on 6 Jan.; CEREDIGION: 200 at Glynarthen in Jan.; CAERNARFON: 200 at Crymlyn on 1 Jan.; ANGLESEY: 125 at Llanddyfnan on 18 Jan.; 220 on stubble near Rhosneigr on 16 Feb.; 220 on stubble south of Benllech on 4 March; DENBIGH: 280+ in a mixed flock with Brambling at Nantclwyd Uchaf on 5 Feb.

Counts of 150+ in second winter period: GWENT: 200 to roost at Machen Mountain on 14 Dec.; 161 at Nedern valley on 19 Dec.; E.GLAMORGAN: counts >200 on 18 dates between 17 Oct. and 25 Nov. (max. 2230 at Lavernock Pt. on 5 Nov.); GOWER: 400 at Overton on 17 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: max. count 120 at Pembrey CP on 9 Dec.; PEMBROKE: 250 over Rosebush on 18 Oct.; 328 over Skokholm on 27 Oct. and 492 here on 28th; 400 over Fishguard Fort on 31 Oct.; 200 at Treheinif on 2 Nov.; 200 at Gupton Farm on 3 Dec.; CEREDIGION: 1129 through Ynyslas on 15 Oct. and 1002 here on 17th; 200 at Ynys Tachwedd in Dec.; BRECON: 500 fed on beechmast at Buckland Wood on 8 Nov.; CAERNARFON: 341 over Bardsey on 6 Oct.; 389 past Roman Fort, Bangor, on 19 Oct.; 2600 past Morfa Madryn in 90 minutes on 20 Oct.; 332 over Bardsey on 25 Oct., 4110 here on 27th, 1093 on 28th and 452 on 5 Nov.; 163 over Bangor on 5 Nov.; 500 past Uwchmynydd on 5 Nov.; 120 at Abergwyngregyn on 7 Dec.; ANGLESEY: 700 at Carmel Head on 19 Oct.; 1500 east at Cemlyn on 29 Oct.; FLINT: flocks of 100+ were regular at Bagillt and Connah's Quay NR from late autumn into the winter period, max. 1051 at Bagillt on 11 Oct. and 909 at Connah's Quay NR on 6 Nov.

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla* PINC Y MYNYDD

Winter visitor in variable numbers; seldom numerous and usually locally distributed. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	147	365
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%

Good numbers in the second winter period, with several counts of over 100 birds in mid Wales and a flock of 1000 in Breconshire that is the largest in Wales for several years.

Large counts (10+) in first winter period: GWENT: 50+ at Manmoel on 17 Jan.; E.GLAMORGAN: 40 at Fforestganol from 12 March to 2 April; CARMARTHEN: 15 at Penlan Uchaf on 9 Jan. and 11 here on 27 Feb.; CEREDIGION: peak count of 15 on the Teifi est. on 3 March; MONTGOMERY: 10+ at Rhos y Brithdir on 26-28 Feb.; 10+ regularly in a Llanfyllin garden in last week of March; DENBIGH: seven counts >10, incl. 20+ with Chaffinches at Nantclwyd Uchaf on 5 Feb., max. 40+ at garden feeders at Penycae on 7 April.

Summer records: DENBIGH: one in Bryneglwys in mid June; one at Trevor Hall, Garth, in second week of July.

Large counts (10+) in second winter period: GWENT: 25 at Court St. Lawrence on 6 Nov.; 50 at Fedw Wood on 15 Nov.; E.GLAMORGAN: 10 at Lavernock Point on 18 Oct., 50 here on 5 Nov., 10 on 6th, 10 on 16th and 19 on 17-18th; CARMARTHEN: 15 at Mynydd Pencarreg on 11 Nov.; CEREDIGION: 48 at Ynyslas on 22 Oct. and 49 north here on 27 Oct.; BRECON: 20 fed on beechmast at Buckland Wood on 27 Oct., then *c*.1000 here on 8 Nov. and 200 on 23rd; 150-200 at Llysdinam on 18-31 Dec.; RADNOR: the highest numbers were recorded in the county for many years, the largest flocks being 600 in Radnor Forest in late Oct. and 450 at Knighton in Dec.; CAERNARFON: 11 over Morfa Madryn on 20 Oct.; 10+ on Bardsey on eight dates in Oct., (max. 245 on 27 Nov. and 120 on 28th) and 11 here on 5 Nov.; ANGLESEY: 15 at Cemlyn on 18 Oct and 11 here on 19th and 12 on 4 Nov.; 25 at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 27 Oct.; 150 east at Cemlyn on 29 Oct.; DENBIGH: up to 25 at Erddig Pool; FLINT: seven counts >10, max. 102 at Connah's Quay NR on 6 Nov.

HAWFINCH *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* GYLFINBRAFF

Resident in small numbers in lowland areas, principally in east Wales and in the Dolgellau area of Meirionnydd. RBBP: 46 pairs in 2017. Some evidence of small-scale immigration from Norway in winter. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	144	270
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Recorded at 15 sites in the breeding season (mainly April to June): GWENT: displaying birds at Llanfair Kilgeddin and Nant-y-Derry; 70 of 188 ringed at three sites in the Wye Valley had brood patches; BRECON: two territorial birds at Hay-on-Wye on 21 March; pair at The Cwm on 9 May, with male or female seen until 25 May; one in a Llanwrthwl garden on 19 May; RADNOR: family party at Penybont in Aug.; MEIRIONNYDD: four at Groeslwyd, Dolgellau, on 9 April; at Brithdir on 22 May; one at Coed y Groes on 1 July; CAERNARFON: single at Glantraeth near Porth Penrhyn in April to June; DENBIGH: pair regularly at Ddol, near Llannefydd, in June and July, the male had been colour ringed (Yellow N71) in the Dolgellau area; FLINT: one in a Rhydymwyn garden on 12 and 18 June.

Following the exceptional influx from Scandinavia in autumn 2017, many sites held good numbers through the first winter period of 2018, with large flocks in southeast Wales and the Conwy Valley: GWENT: recorded almost daily from Jan. to early April, incl. many in gardens; 10 at Cefn Ila on 1 Jan.; 10 at Llanfihangel Pont-y-moel on 28 Jan.; 14 at Pontypool on 28 Jan.; 20-50 at Dingestow between 17 Jan. and 13 March; E.GLAMORGAN: up to 40 at Fforestganol in Jan (max. on 22nd), 20 in Feb. (4th) and 50 in March (17th); GOWER: one at Gorseinon School on 7 Jan.; 1-2 at Margam Abbey on 16 Jan.; six at Penllergaer Valley Park on 17 Jan. and at St David's Church Penllergaer on 27th; male in a Crynant garden on 2-7 March; CEREDIGION: one in a Trefenter garden on 7 Jan.; two near Trawscoed on 11 Feb.; one in an Ystumtuen garden on 28 March and 7-8 April; BRECON: female at Brecon cricket club from Oct. 2017 remained until 23 Feb., joined by a male on 12 Feb. that remained until 18 March; RADNOR: present in 14 churchyards and 11 gardens, some as late at 17 April. Highest counts were 40 at Bleddfa, 22 at Norton and 20 at Whitton; MONTGOMERY: up to four at Powis Castle from 27 Jan. to 16 March; one daily in a Llanfyllin

garden from 1 Jan. to 28 March; singles at Ceri Forest on 2 Jan., RSPB Lake Vyrnwy on 7 March and at Machynlleth in two weeks in March; two at Guilsfield on 17 March; MEIRIONNYDD: Llanelltyd church from 1 Jan. to 6 March, max. 10 on 2 Jan.; three at Llyn Gwernan, Cadair Idris, on 2 Feb.; three at Farchynys, Mawddach on 22 March; two at Lower Tryweryn on 23 March and four here on 1 April; CAERNARFON: regularly at Llanbedr-y-Cennin up to 29 March, incl. a county record 48 birds on 28 Jan.; 1-4 at Caerhun up to 10 June (max. four on 28 March); one on a birdtable at Penmachno on 27 Feb.; one over Bardsey in April; DENBIGH: recorded from seven sites, max. count 23 near Rhuthun on 9 Jan.; FLINT: three at Rhydymwyn; singles at Maes Pennant and Nannerch on 7 Feb.

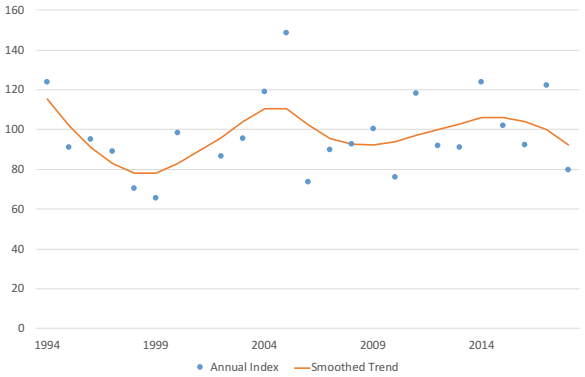
Second winter period: GWENT: three sites, max. six at Dingestow on 30 Nov.; CARMARTHEN: one at Penclacwydd from Nov. 2017 to 15 March, but 2-4 here from 28 Feb. to 3 March; one at Talley on 2 Feb.; one at Pentregwenlais on 2 and 23 March; PEMBROKE: one at Stackpole on 9 July; MONTGOMERY: two north at Churchstoke on 2 Sept.; 14 at Powis Castle on 30 Dec.; MEIRIONNYDD: one at Rhyd on 13 Sept.; one at Llyn Caer Euni on 30 Oct.; one at Ceinwys on 22 Nov.; CAERNARFON: two on the Great Orme on 21 Oct.

BULLFINCH *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* COCH Y BERLLAN

Fairly numerous resident in the lowlands, patchier in its distribution in the far west and scarce in the uplands, other than in some areas of recent afforestation. Unusual on the islands. Wales Red listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	3314	2601
% of BirdTrack lists	17%	13%

Breeding Bird Survey: Bullfinch in Wales, 1994 - 2018



Bullfinch numbers have recovered across the UK in recent years, almost returning to their 1994 levels in Wales, but there is considerable between-year variation in the Breeding Bird Survey index and 2018 was a relatively poor year. Numbers almost certainly remain far lower than in previous decades, but there is no Wales-specific data prior to the Breeding Bird Survey.

Large counts (10+): GWENT: 10 at Llanwenarth on 26 Dec.; E.GLAMORGAN: 13 at Coed Craig Ruperra on 6 Jan.; 16 at Kenfig NNR on 2 Nov.; PEMBROKE: 12 at The Rhos on 24 Oct.; CEREDIGION: 14 at Cwm Rheidiol on 6 Jan. was highest count of year; BRECON: 11 at Talachddu on 28 Feb.; 10 at Llanbedr Road, Crickhowell, on 28 Feb.; ANGLESEY: 10 at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 26 Jan.; 15 at Penmon Point on 19 Nov.; DENBIGH: 10 at RSPB Conwy on 1 Jan.

COMMON ROSEFINCH *Carpodacus erythrinus* LLINOS GOCH

Scarce migrant. WBRC: 157 previous records.

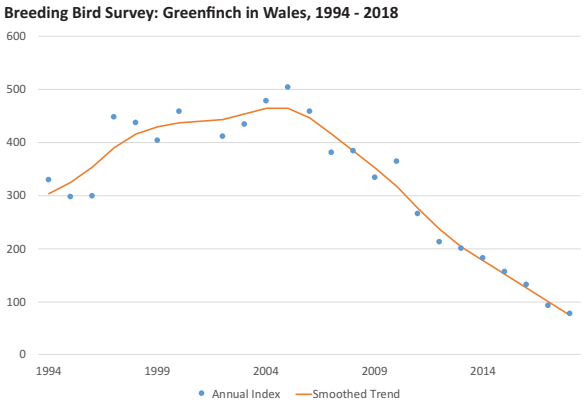
E.GLAMORGAN: 1CY found dead at Lavernock on 16 Oct. was first county record; PEMBROKE: 1CY/female on Skokholm on 16-27 Sept.; CAERNARFON: 2CY/female on the Great Orme on 28 May; 1CY ringed on

Bardsey on 5 Oct.

GREENFINCH *Chloris chloris* LLINOS WERDD

Resident, formerly common but population has declined following outbreak of Trichomonosis. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	2643	2565
% of BirdTrack lists	14%	13%



The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales reached another new low in 2017, for its eighth consecutive year, having fallen to just 20% of its 2005 peak. The proportion of BirdTrack lists registering Greenfinch has fallen by 38% since 2015, although more were reported in gardens in Breconshire than for several years.

Highest counts (40+): GWENT: 40 at Black Rock on 31 Jan.; E.GLAMORGAN: 110 on Flat Holm on 26 Sept.; ANGLESEY: 80 at Menai Bridge on 31 Oct.; FLINT: 40+ at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 26 Dec.

Ringing: GOWER: 88 were ringed at Oxwich Marsh NNR, down from 139 in 2017.

TWITE *Linaria flavirostris* LLINOS Y MYNYDD

Scarce breeding species, now restricted to a small part of Caernarfonshire; scarce winter visitor and passage migrant in very small numbers. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	96	151
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Breeding season: CAERNARFON: one in Cwm Tryfan on 20 April; up to six birds in Nant Ffrancon in May; three in the upper Llugwy valley on 30 July; DENBIGH: 9+ at Mynydd y Glyn near Rhos-y-brithdir in the south Berwyns on 21 July is an intriguing record.

Non-breeding: CEREDIGION: three along the R.Leri on 24 Jan.; up to 15 at Ynyslas/Ynys Tachwedd from 29 Oct. to 14 Dec.; MEIRIONNYDD: three at Fairbourne on 24 Nov. was the first county record since 2010; CAERNARFON: present near Llanwnda on 16 Feb.; seven at Foryd on 3 March; one on the Great Orme on 6 June; one at Llanfairfechan on 29 Oct.; ANGLESEY: one at Cemlyn on 10 Oct. and three here on 29th; seven at Traeth Dulas on 6 Nov.; four at Red Wharf Bay on 10 Dec.; DENBIGH: three at RSPB Conwy on 11 April; FLINT: up to 98 (on 5 Feb.) at Connah's Quay NR in the first winter period, the last sighting on 20 April. Max. 25 here in the second winter period, on 6 Dec., but numbers remained low for the remainder of the winter; one at Gronant on 7 March, three here on 22 Nov. and two on 10 Dec.

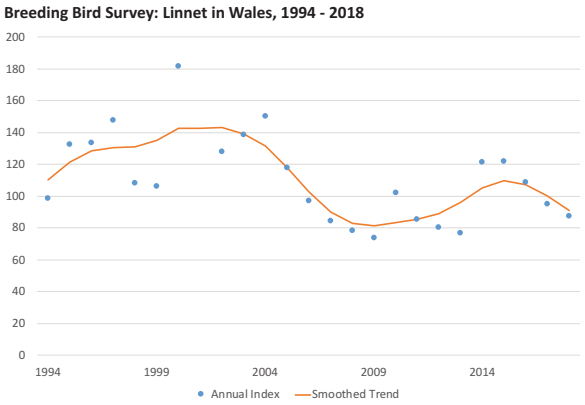
Ringing: 33 birds were colour-ringed at Connah's Quay NR, FLINT, of which two were caught in Nant Ffrancon, CAERNARFON, in April. An individual ringed on the Mull of Kintyre, western Scotland, in Oct.

2014 was seen at Connah's Quay NR on 1 Feb.

LINNET *Linaria cannabina* LLINOS

Breeding resident, summer visitor and passage migrant. Wales Red listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	3080	2690
% of BirdTrack lists	16%	13%



The recovery in Linnets from the 2009 nadir has been arrested in the last three years of the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales, which now lies 18% below its 1994 baseline. The recovery has continued across Scotland and much of England, but interestingly the index for Northern Ireland has been falling rapidly since a peak in 2010.

Breeding surveys: CAERNARFON: Bardsey population fell to 23 pairs, 17% below the 10 year mean, fledging 62 young.

Counts (100+) in first winter period: GWENT: 60-150 in stubble fields at Llangybi during March and April; E.GLAMORGAN: 230 at Slade Farm on 5 Feb.; GOWER: 600+ at the Viel, Rhossili, on 1 Jan.; CEREDIGION: 200 at Glynarthen on 19 Jan.; BRECON: 100 fed among on root crops at Cathedine Fawr on 22 Jan.; 220 among organic swedes at Newbridge-on-Wye on 7 Feb.; CAERNARFON: 112 over Bardsey on 15 April and 129 here on 19th; ANGLESEY: 220 at Benllech on 9 Jan., decreasing to 130 on 14 March; DENBIGH: 160 in Rhyl on 7 Feb.; FLINT: 150 at Connah's Quay NR on 3 Jan.

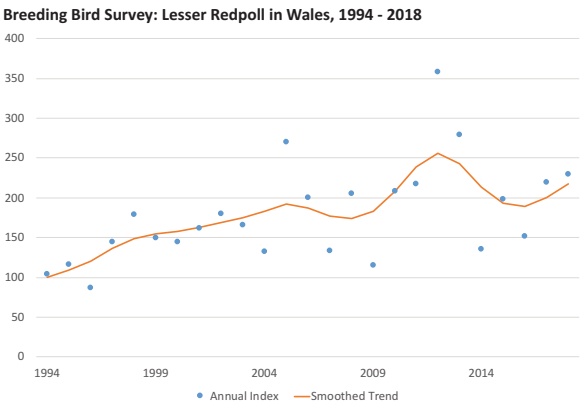
Counts (100+) in second winter period: E.GLAMORGAN: 250 at Cefn Mably on 13 Aug.; 110 at Rhymney Great Wharf on 22 Aug.; 100 at Flemingston Moor and near Fontygary on 23 Aug.; 700 at Lavernock Pt. on 3 Oct. and 2000 here on 17th; 100+ at E. Aberthaw on 15 Oct.; 120+ at Gileston on 19 Oct.; GOWER: sunflowers and linseed planted at the Viel, Rhossili, regularly attracted 100+ Linnets, highest counts incl. 380 on 21 Aug., 330 on 12 Sept. and 200 on 18 Nov.; PEMBROKE: 300 at Berea Pwll Caerog on 21 Oct.; 800 at Gupton Burrows on 31 Oct.; 300 at Castlemartin Corse West on 17 Nov.; CEREDIGION: strong passage at Ynyslas from 15 Sept. to 19 Oct., incl. peak counts of 620 on 24 Sept. and 636 on 19 Oct.; 200 at Llansantffraed on 9 Oct.; 400 at Mwnt on 31 Oct.; 413 at Ynys Tachwedd on 16 Nov.; BRECON: 100 fed on oilseed rape at Pennorth in late Aug.; CAERNARFON: 143 over Bardsey on 31 Aug., 137 here on 6 Sept. and 363 on 3 Oct.; 130 at Morfa Madryn on 24 Sept.; ANGLESEY: 130-150 at Cemlyn/Hen Borth from mid-Aug. to year end; DENBIGH: 100 at Llechrydau on 8 Oct.; FLINT: up to 120 in Gronant dunes during Oct. to Dec.; *c.*100 at Flint in Nov./Dec.

COMMON REDPOLL *Acanthis flammea* LLINOS BENGOCH
Scarce vagrant. WBRC: 41 records since 2002.

GOWER: male at Glynneath from 6 Feb. to 14 March; CAERNARFON: two over the Great Orme on 11 May; ANGLESEY: one on Carmel Head on 13 May.

LESSER REDPOLL *Acanthis cabaret* LLINOS BENGOCH LEIAF
Partial migrant, widely distributed as a breeding bird. Passage migrant and winter visitor in varying numbers. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	615	588
% of BirdTrack lists	3%	3%



Numbers monitored by the Breeding Bird Survey in Wales picked up again in 2018, and are 13% up on a decade ago.

Large counts (15+) in first winter period: GWENT: at least 100 at Wentwood on 12 Feb.; 60 at Manson Lane on 17 April; 35 near The Blorenge on 29 April; BRECON: 15+ at Tŷ Mawr Wood on 3 Feb.; MEIRIONNYDD: 20 at Cwm Hirnant on 23 April; CAERNARFON: 23 on Bardsey on 18 April and 38 here on 21st; 20 at Uwchmynydd on 19 April; DENBIGH: 50+ at Ruabon Mountain on 22 April; FLINT: 15+ at Llanfynydd on 10 Jan.; 49 at Pantymwyn from late March to mid-April.

Lesser Redpoll (Jonathan Bull)

Large counts (15+) in second winter period: GWENT: 19 at Newport Wetlands Reserve Uskmouth on 20 Oct. and 45 here on 27th; BRECON: 16 near Talybont on 18 Nov.; 20 at Trallong on 24 Dec.; MONTGOMERY: 30 at Machynlleth on 30 Oct.; CAERNARFON: 36 on Bardsey on 25 Oct.

COMMON CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra* GYLFINGROES

Resident species although numbers fluctuate; occasional irruptive immigrant. Wales Green listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	265	364
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	2%

Breeding: GWENT: several pairs bred at Wentwood, Trellech Hill and Beacon Hill; E.GLAMORGAN: pairs in suitable habitat at five sites; GOWER: several pairs bred in Rheola and Afan Forests; PEMBROKE: probably bred at one site; BRECON: bred at one site, probably at six others; MEIRIONNYDD: records from 15+ sites, incl. family parties at Bod Petryal (Clocaenog) and Ceiriog Forest; CAERNARFON: bred in Coed Gwydyr; DENBIGH: bred in Clocaenog Forest and Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd and probably at Eglwyseg and Coed Llandegla.

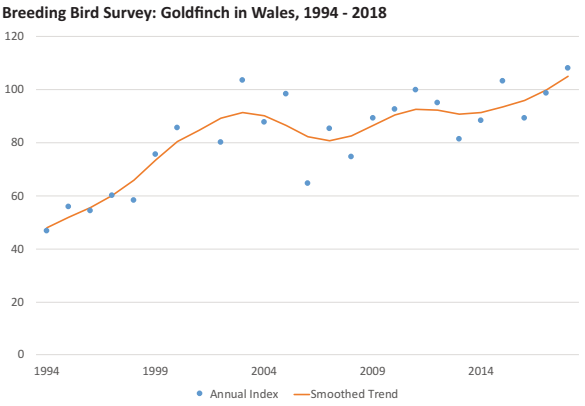
Large counts (25+): GWENT: 85 in Wentwood on 3 Jan. and 25 here on 27 Feb.; 30 at Twmbarlwm on 31 Dec.; E.GLAMORGAN: passage in Oct. included 58 at Dunraven on 10th, 60 at Lavernock Pt. on 18th, 195 here on 30th, 30 on 31st and 28 on 6 Nov.; 30 at Garwnant on 18 Nov.; GOWER: 45 at Resolven on 1 Feb. and 14 March; 36 over Rhossili on 22 Oct. and 30 here on 24th; CEREDIGION: up to 25 at Allt-y-Crib from July to Dec.; BRECON: 25 near Talybont Res. on 8 Jan.; RADNOR: largest counts were 295 in four flocks in Radnor Forest in late Oct. and 220 in the Elan Valley in Nov.; ANGLESEY: 42 over Cemlyn on 7 Oct.; DENBIGH: 25+ at Mynydd Hiraethog on 16 Nov.; 30 in Coed Llandegla on 18 Nov.; 30+ at Maes-tyddyn, Clocaenog, on 21 Feb.; 47 at Nant-y-Glyn on 10 Oct.

GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis* NICO

Resident, summer visitor and passage migrant; possibly winter visitor in small numbers. Wales Green listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	8276	7844
% of BirdTrack lists	45%	42%

Unlike some other small-bodied species, the cold spring did not suppress the continued increase in Goldfinch numbers, which registered a new high on the Breeding Bird Survey in Wales, a trend reflected throughout mainland Britain. Counts from bird reports suggest an influx in the second half of October.



Flocks of 100+ in spring: CAERNARFON: 125 over Bardsey on 23 April and 168 here on 27th.

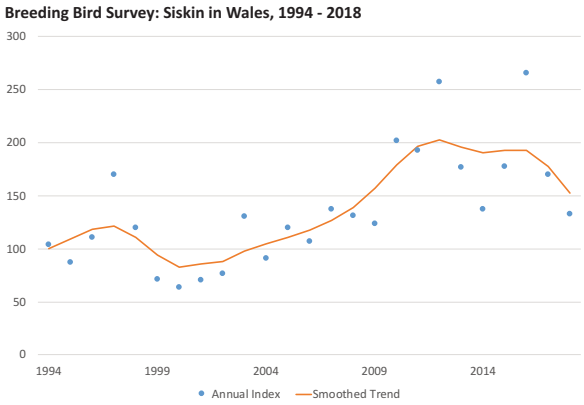
Flocks of 100+ on autumn passage: GWENT: 130 at Peterstone Wentlooge on 23 Aug.; 150 at Peterstone Gout on 25 Aug.; 80-100 at Ynysyfro on 9 Sept.; several flocks of 200 at Peterstone Wentlooge/St.Brides on 15 Oct.; 200 in a mixed finch flock at Peterstone Gout on 16 Oct.; E.GLAMORGAN: 100 at Rhymney Great Wharf on 10 Oct.; 250+ at E. Aberthaw on 15 Oct.; 100 at Cosmeston Lakes CP on 17 Oct.; max. 3000 at Lavernock Pt. on 17 Oct., 1000 here on 29th, 500 on 31st and 450 in early Nov.; GOWER: 350+ at Eglwys Nunydd Res. on 25 Aug.; *c.*100 at the Viel, Rhossili, on 15 Sept. and *c.*200 here on 15 Nov. attracted

to sunflowers and linseed planted by the National Trust; PEMBROKE: 119 on Skokholm on 6 Oct. and 170 here on 15 Oct.; 120 over Rosebush on 18 Oct.; BRECON: 100 fed on thistles at Llangasty on 1 Sept.; MONTGOMERY: 100+ at Newtown on 13 Aug.; CAERNARFON: 109 over Bardsey on 20 Sept., 234 here on 28th and 135 on 29th, then 218 on 3 Oct., 233 on 21st and 174 on 27th; ANGLESEY: 170 at Breakwater CP on 20 Aug.; 120 at Point Lynas on 10 Sept.; FLINT: 100 at Connah's Quay NR on 29 Sept. and 14 Oct.; 100+ at Rhyl on 9-12 Aug.; 150+ at Talacre on 11 Sept.

SISKIN *Spinus spinus* PILA GWYRDD

Increasing breeding species; numerous winter visitor and passage migrant. Wales Green listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	1837	1746
% of BirdTrack lists	9%	8%



A poor year by recent standards, but the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales remains 63% above its 1994 level.

Large counts (60+): GWENT: 90 near Osbaston on 1 Jan.; 100 at Cadira Beeches on 12 Feb.; E.GLAMORGAN: 150 over Lavernock Pt. on 29 Oct.; GOWER: 80 at Resolven on 1 Feb. and 14 March; 80 flew west at Rhossili on 1 Oct.; BRECON: 60 at Llanwrthwl on 14 Jan.; 80 at Brynich on 20 Jan.; 65 in Llaneglwys Forest in Feb.; 70 in Llandefaelog in early March; 100 at Crownant on 11 Oct.; 100 at Llanwrthwl in Nov.; CAERNARFON: 80 in Trefriw on 15 Jan.; FLINT: 76 at Pantymwyn on 18 March.

Ringing: BRECON: 1CY female ringed at Lower Cwmtwrch on 12 March 2017 was caught and released by a ringer at de Haan, Belgium, on 30 March and 2 April 2018.

YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella* BRAS MELYN

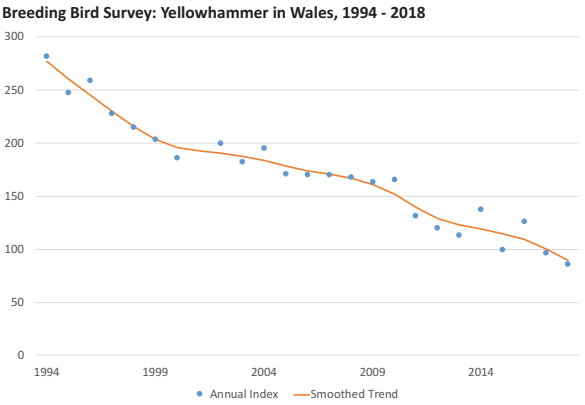
Declining as a resident breeding species over large parts of Wales. Wales Red listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	226	228
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%

The decline in Yellowhammers continues, with the Breeding Bird Index for Wales (overleaf) hitting a new low, down 62% on its 1994 baseline with a sample size approaching a level at which it will no longer be possible to produce a meaningful graph.

Breeding: pairs or territorial males: GWENT: four at The British, three at Blaenyoy and three at St. Mary's Vale, Abergavenny; E.GLAMORGAN: 10 sites (incl. one nest-building at Limpert Bay); GOWER: four pairs nested at two sites, and 27 males at 12 sites, almost exclusively in west Gower; CARMARTHEN: four at three sites; PEMBROKE: breeding evidence in six 1-km squares; CEREDIGION: two at Cwm Brefi in June; BRECON: survey of ffridd in the Black Mountains found seven territories/pairs; elsewhere 19 at 10 sites; MEIRIONNYDD: small numbers in three areas: along the coast from Fairbourne to Aberdyfi, and branching

up the valleys of the R.Dyfi, R.Dysynni and R.Mawddach; Llyn Tegid and the Dee valley to the north; and the Ddu allt area.; CAERNARFON: regular counts of up to seven in the Rhiw area throughout the year; one at Clwt-y-bont on 29 April; four at Clegyr-Llanberis on 24 May; four at Mynytho Common on 7 June; one at Garn Dolbenmaen on 14 July; ANGLESEY: three pairs bred at Brynteg; small population around Mynydd Bodafon; DENBIGH: probably bred at Moel Arthur, plus singing males in several locations; FLINT: probably bred in Cilcain.



Large counts (10+): E.GLAMORGAN: 30 at Southerndown on 1 Feb.; 35 at St Brides Major on 5 Feb; PEMBROKE: 15 at Folkestone Farm, Nolton Haven, on 29 Oct.; BRECON: 100 fed in a Glastir wildbird crop of unharvested spring barley at Cŵrt-y-prior (Llangorse) from 11 Jan. to mid-Feb.; 20-50 in a Glastir wildbird crop at Pennorth from mid-Oct. to year end, peaking on 30 Dec.; 20-100 in similar habitat at Llanbeilin from mid-Oct. to year end, peaking on 28 Dec.; ringing shows little interchange between the last two sites only 4.5km apart; MEIRIONNYDD: 20 fed under garden feeders at Ynys Crossing, Dyfi Junction, from 10 Feb. to early April, and up to 10 here in Dec.; DENBIGH: 14 at Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd on 31 Jan.

ORTOLAN BUNTING *Emberiza hortulana* BRAS Y GERDDI

Rare vagrant. WBRC: 171 previous records.

PEMBROKE: one at Llanfyrnach on 6 Oct.

REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus* BRAS Y CYRS

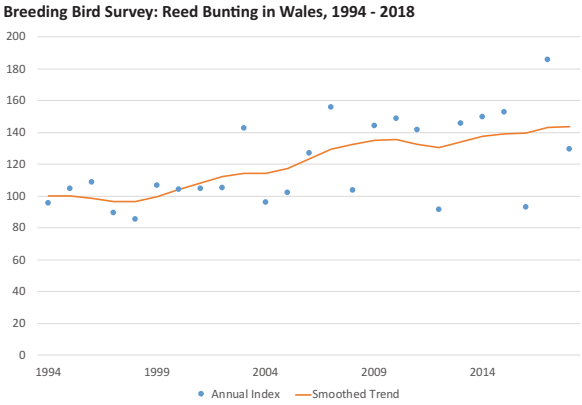
Fairly common resident breeding species, mainly in waterside habitats; evidence of a small autumn emigration. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	2113	2098
% of BirdTrack lists	11%	10%

The record high in 2017 keeps the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales pointing upwards, despite fewer being recorded in 2018 than in the previous year. It now lies 43% above its 1994 level.

Large counts (20+): GWENT: 25 at Peterstone Wentlooge on 5 Jan.; E.GLAMORGAN: 25 at Southerndown on 26 Jan. and 1 Feb.; 45 at St Brides Major on 5 Feb.; 43 at Lavernock Pt. on 17 Oct.; GOWER: *c.*20 in a field of sunflowers/linseed at the Viel, Rhossili, on 15 Nov.; CARMARTHEN: 50 at Machynys on 17 Oct.; PEMBROKE: 20 at Slebech on 11 Jan.; 25 at Aber Pwll on 14 Dec.; 20 at Berea on 14 Dec.; CEREDIGION: 58 at Ynyslas on 5 Oct. was highest count of the year; BRECON: 50 in Glastir-funded unharvested barley at Pennorth in Jan.-Feb. and 40 here on 10 Dec.; MONTGOMERY: 50+ at Dolydd Hafren on 4 and 25 Nov.;

CAERNARFON: 26 on Bardsey on 15 Oct.; ANGLESEY: a weedy field at Cemlyn held 45 on 29 Oct. and 30 on 4 Nov.; FLINT: 21 in Gronant dunes on 22 May, where several pairs bred.



LAPLAND BUNTING *Calcarius lapponicus* BRAS Y GOGLEDD

Uncommon but regular passage migrant in small numbers, especially in autumn, and an occasional winter resident. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	0	25
% of BirdTrack lists	0%	<1%

First winter period: PEMBROKE: one at Dale Airfield on 11 March.

Second winter period: E.GLAMORGAN: one at Cardiff Bay barrage on 30 Oct.; PEMBROKE: one on Skokholm on 4 Oct.; CEREDIGION: 1-4 at Llanon between 10 Oct. and 3 Nov.; two at Llanrhystud on 30 Oct.; one at Ynyslas/Ynys Tachwedd on 15 and 29 Oct., one on 10 Nov. and five on 15th; MONTGOMERY: one at Llyn Glaslyn on 30 Oct. was a first county record; MEIRIONNYDD: one at Aberdysynni on 15 Nov.; CAERNARFON: two on Bardsey on 18 Oct., one here on 19th and another on 28th; one on the Great Orme on 28 Oct.; ANGLESEY: singles at Cemlyn on 16 and 24 Nov.; FLINT: near Bagillt on 18 Oct.

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis* BRAS YR EIRA

Regular autumn passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales Amber listed.

	2017	2018
No of BirdTrack records	97	12
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

First winter period (all records are single birds unless otherwise stated): PEMBROKE: Porthgain on 7 Jan.; three at St. David's Head on 7 March; CEREDIGION: one at Llanrhystud on 2 Feb.; RADNOR: three on Beacon Hill on 16 Feb.; MEIRIONNYDD: Aberdysynni on 3 March; Barmouth on 21 March; CAERNARFON: 10 near the summit of Yr Elen, in the Carneddau, on 26 Feb.

Second winter period (single birds unless otherwise stated): PEMBROKE: Fishguard Fort on 31 Oct.; Skomer on 4 Nov.; Fishguard Harbour on 8 Nov.; MEIRIONNYDD: Moelwyn Mawr on 27 Oct.; Cadair Idris on 26 Dec.; CAERNARFON: two over Bardsey on 30 Oct.; ANGLESEY: one at Cemlyn on 24 Nov.

ESCAPES

The following species were reported to county recorders.

BAR-HEADED GOOSE *Anser indicus* GWYDD BENRHESOG

GWENT: one at Newport Wetlands Reserve Goldcliff on 7 and 19 May, an annual spring visitor; CARMARTHEN: one at Dryslwyn on 16 Feb.; MEIRIONNYDD: one at Ynys Saltings, Dyfi Junction, on 15 July with a single gosling on its back.

SWAN GOOSE *Anser cygnoides* ALARCHWYDD

E.GLAMORGAN: three on R.Taff at Bute Park, Cardiff, from Jan. to March, and up to four here in June to Nov.; three at Aberdare Town Park on 3 March; three at Coed Craig Ruperra on 21 April and five here on 26 May; CAERNARFON: one at Aber Ogwen from 2 July to 11 Aug.

RED-BREASTED GOOSE *Branta ruficollis* GŴYDD FRONGOCH

GWENT: one at Parc Bryn Bach on 3 March; E.GLAMORGAN: one at Caerphilly Castle moat on 1-2 Jan., probably same at Parc Taf Bargoed on 3 Jan. and Aberdare Town Park on 28 Jan. and 24 Feb.; BRECON: one at Llangorse/Llangasty on 19 April and 5-11 May, presumed same as in East Glamorgan and Gwent; MEIRIONNYDD: adult at Llyn Tanygrisiau on 2 June with Canada Geese; one on several dates in late July at Ynys Saltings, Dyfi Junction; DENBIGH: 2CY on Llyn Brenig on 7 and 12 June was submitted to BBRC which documented it as 'origin uncertain or known not to be wild'.

BLACK SWAN *Cygnus atratus* ALARCH DDU

GWENT: two at Newport Wetlands Reserve Goldcliff from 25 May to 9 July; one at Llanwern steel works from 11 Dec. until the year end at least; E.GLAMORGAN: two at Cardiff Bay on 10 Sept., probably same at Kenfig Pool on 11-13 Sept.; four at West Aberthaw on 19 Oct.; GOWER: two at Port Talbot Docks on 26 Sept.; CAERNARFON: two at a number of sites in the Menai Strait between June and Oct.; ANGLESEY: one at Llyn Alaw on 10 Sept.; FLINT: two at White Sands, Dee estuary, on 20 May and then at Shotwick Fields on 9 Dec.

RUDDY SHELDUCK *Tadorna ferruginaea* HWYADEN GOCH YR EITHIN

CARMARTHEN: one at Machnynys on 4 Nov.; FLINT: one in the Dee estuary in Jan./Feb. and on 20-21 Aug., then on the Clwyd estuary on 21 Aug. and from 28 Aug. to 17 Oct., with a brief return to Connah's Quay NR on 24 Aug.

MUSCOVY DUCK *Cairina moschata* HWYADEN FWSG

GWENT: one at Brynmawr ponds in the second half of Dec.; E.GLAMORGAN: two at Parc Taf Bargoed Lakes all year, with four here on 11-16 April though breeding not reported; one at Roath Park Lake on 1 Jan. and 20 Aug. and two here on 8 May; one at Aberdare Town Park on 3 March; one at Bryngarw CP on 8 Dec.; GOWER: 1-2 at Margam Park lakes throughout the year; BRECON: one on the Brecon Canal throughout the year; another on the R.Wye at Glasbury in both winter periods (and probably resident in summer).

WOOD DUCK *Aix sponsa* HWYADEN COED

GWENT: female at Fourteen Locks on 12 July and at Ynysyfro Reservoirs on 22-23 July; up to 12 at Festival Park, Ebbw Vale, from 30 Nov. to mid Dec.; one at Rogerstone on 2 Dec.; E.GLAMORGAN: two pairs at Hensol Lake from 16 March into April are believed to have been deliberately released, one of which hatched four chicks but none fledged; one at Hendre Lake, St Mellons, on 19 April.

WHITE-CHEEKED PINTAIL *Anas bahamensis* HWYADEN Y BAHAMAS
CARMARTHEN: one at Penclacwydd in Oct.

FERRUGINOUS DUCK *Aythya nyroca* HWYADEN LYGADWEN
BRECON: 3CY+ male at Llangorse Lake on 7 March is presumed the same as at Llanbwch-llyn Lake, RADNOR, from 10 March to 27 April that was captive-bred from a reintroduction scheme at Lake Steinhude in Lower Saxony, Germany.

REEVES'S PHEASANT *Syrmaticus reevesii* FFESANT REEVES
BRECON: two males in a Bwlch garden on 7 April, around the time that at commercial game farm near Llangorse closed down; FLINT: female at the entrance to Connah's Quay NR on 9 Dec.

Reeves's Pheasant (David Winnard)

GOLDEN EAGLE *Aquila chrysaetos* ERYR EURAID
CEREDIGION: the escaped bird, nicknamed 'Eddie' and present in the county since 2011, was seen on a number of dates in the Cors Caron area.

HARRIS'S HAWK *Parabuteo unicinctus* GWALCH HARRIS
CAERNARFON: two free-flying falconer's birds built a nest at Plas yn Rhiw but later abandoned it. The owner was charged with releasing non-native birds into the wild, but the case collapsed on the first day of the trial in August 2019 when the police failed to provide any evidence.

EAGLE OWL *Bubo sp.* ERYRDYLLUAN SP.
DENBIGH: one on Ruabon Mountain in each winter period.

PIED CROW *Corvus albus* BRAN FRAITH
PEMBROKE: one in St Justinian's on 3-7 July. It had been seen in East Yorkshire and Lincolnshire on 13 June, in Norfolk on 15-23 June, in Somerset from 26 June to 1 July, and subsequently returned to East Yorkshire from 24 July until March 2019.

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Ringing Report for Wales 2018

Lee Barber, British Trust for Ornithology

Ringing trends

After five years of increasing Welsh ringing totals, that for 2018 dropped by 13,357 birds. One factor in this drop could be the challenging conditions for ringing in 2018, with an increase in wind and rain. This could also have reduced the productivity of many species, in particular affecting the survival of chicks.

A summary of the number of pulli and full grown birds ringed since 2000 is shown in the table below. The millionth bird to be ringed in Wales this century will doubtless occur in spring 2019.

Year	Full grown		Pulli	Total
2018	48,819		16,182	65,001
2017	58,509		19,849	78,358
2016	57,667		18,926	76,593
2015	53,166		21,174	74,340
2014	54,529		19,637	74,166
2013	42,070		15,813	57,883
2012	34,185		15,547	49,732
2011	43,501		16,830	60,331
2010	44,563		18,424	62,987
2009	32,485		14,932	47,417
2008	27,892		15,394	43,286
2007	26,252		16,269	42,521
2006	23,086		17,415	40,501
2005	27,791		16,596	44,387
2004	27,146		16,364	43,510
2003	24,737		14,405	39,142
2002	25,441		13,762	39,203
2001	16,727		8297	25,024
2000	14,587		9462	24,049
Totals	**634,334**		**289,096**	**988,431**

Pied Flycatcher saw the greatest reduction (-2079) between 2017 and 2018, partially due to heavy rain during the critical nestling period that resulted in many chicks dying. Several of our smallest passerines also showed a decline in numbers ringed, including Goldcrest (-1821), Chiffchaff (-1081) and Willow Warbler (-975). On a more positive note, it was good to see an increase in the number of Brambling ringed (+1138) and the Red-listed Starling (+807), which has struggled across the UK. More adult Manx Shearwaters (+374) were ringed in 2018, likely reflecting an increase in ringing effort.

Barn Owls had a difficult time in 2018 and this shows in a reduction in the number of pulli (nestlings) ringed (-215). Quite a few seabird species also had reductions in the number of pulli ringed including Guillemot (-245), Herring Gull (-208), Black-headed Gull (-205) and Cormorant (-128). The largest increases were Blue Tit (+229) and Great Tit (+162), with Little Tern (+43) and Arctic Tern (+31) also showing increases.

It is hard to differentiate between ringer effort and bird abundance, so two BTO schemes try to standardise 'effort', giving more accurate abundance figures. These are Constant Effort Site (CES) and RAS (Retrapping Adults for Survival). Ten CES were again active in 2018 and 24 RAS studies operated: for Pied Flycatcher (six), Dipper (three), Siskin (two), Reed Warbler (two) and single studies of Common Tern, Kittiwake, House Sparrow, Linnet, Shag, Reed Bunting, Arctic Tern, Wheatear, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Hawfinch and Razorbill.

The table overleaf summarises the number of full grown (FG) and nestlings (pulli) ringed in 2018 compared to 2017. It does not show birds that have been captured with a ring on already. The ringing totals above are derived from the BTO database and similar numbers can be seen on the online Ringing Report: **www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/ringing/publications/online-ringing-reports**.

Ringing totals	2017			2018			Year total diff
Species	FG	Pulli	Total	FG	Pulli	Total	
Brent Goose	0	0	0	22	0	22	22
Canada Goose	207	0	207	181	0	181	-26
Greylag Goose	3	2	5	10	0	10	5
Mute Swan	21	42	63	32	36	68	5
Whooper Swan	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Shelduck	22	0	22	53	0	53	31
Mandarin Duck	4	0	4	0	0	0	-4
Mallard	17	0	17	20	6	26	9
Teal	8	0	8	7	0	7	-1
Goosander	3	0	3	10	0	10	7
Red Grouse	2	0	2	6	0	6	4
Grey Partridge	0	0	0	2	0	2	2
Storm Petrel	793	9	802	919	9	928	126
Fulmar	0	3	3	0	2	2	-1
Manx Shearwater	2440	589	3029	2853	550	3403	374
Little Grebe	4	0	4	1	0	1	-3
Great Crested Grebe	1	0	1	0	0	0	-1
Grey Heron	0	0	0	2	7	9	9
Gannet	47	0	47	26	0	26	-21
Shag	25	319	344	5	232	237	-107
Cormorant	0	356	356	0	228	228	-128
Osprey	0	10	10	0	10	10	0
Sparrowhawk	22	0	22	16	7	23	1
Goshawk	1	41	42	1	46	47	5
Hen Harrier	0	9	9	0	9	9	0
Red Kite	0	18	18	1	10	11	-7
Buzzard	6	14	20	7	8	15	-5
Water Rail	6	0	6	5	0	5	-1
Moorhen	6	1	7	11	1	12	5
Oystercatcher	391	12	403	603	23	626	223
Lapwing	38	5	43	72	29	101	58
Golden Plover	159	0	159	49	0	49	-110
Grey Plover	1	0	1	0	0	0	-1
Ringed Plover	107	5	112	174	7	181	69
Little Ringed Plover	6	3	9	0	5	5	-4
Kentish Plover	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Whimbrel	49	0	49	32	0	32	-17
Curlew	101	10	111	43	4	47	-64
Bar-tailed Godwit	5	0	5	28	0	28	23
Black-tailed Godwit	1	0	1	1	0	1	0
Turnstone	44	0	44	27	0	27	-17
Knot	38	0	38	23	0	23	-15
Ruff	4	0	4	2	0	2	-2
Curlew Sandpiper	1	0	1	1	0	1	0

Ringing totals	2017			2018			Year total diff
Species	FG	Pulli	Total	FG	Pulli	Total	
Sanderling	203	0	203	8	0	8	-195
Dunlin	2965	0	2965	1373	0	1373	-1592
Purple Sandpiper	3	0	3	2	0	2	-1
Little Stint	5	0	5	0	0	0	-5
Woodcock	560	0	560	449	0	449	-111
Jack Snipe	106	0	106	72	0	72	-34
Snipe	235	0	235	190	0	190	-45
Common Sandpiper	6	0	6	11	2	13	7
Green Sandpiper	3	0	3	0	0	0	-3
Redshank	364	0	364	305	0	305	-59
Greenshank	1	0	1	1	0	1	0
Kittiwake	36	22	58	25	24	49	-9
Black-headed Gull	120	309	429	70	104	174	-255
Great Black-backed Gull	7	121	128	31	79	110	-18
Herring Gull	55	672	727	85	464	549	-178
Lesser Black-backed Gull	131	442	573	118	349	467	-106
Sandwich Tern	10	0	10	16	0	16	6
Little Tern	2	130	132	34	173	207	75
Common Tern	13	469	482	13	448	461	-21
Arctic Tern	23	596	619	4	627	631	12
Guillemot	93	899	992	22	654	676	-316
Razorbill	60	421	481	34	292	326	-155
Little Auk	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Black Guillemot	1	3	4	0	4	4	0
Puffin	69	54	123	96	33	129	6
Stock Dove	11	28	39	9	46	55	16
Woodpigeon	18	9	27	10	10	20	-7
Collared Dove	17	0	17	5	0	5	-12
Cuckoo	3	0	3	11	0	11	8
Barn Owl	41	656	697	29	441	470	-227
Tawny Owl	21	40	61	15	59	74	13
Little Owl	1	3	4	2	6	8	4
Long-eared Owl	3	5	8	0	4	4	-4
Short-eared Owl	2	10	12	0	9	9	-3
Nightjar	72	33	105	46	33	79	-26
Swift	1	4	5	3	2	5	0
Kingfisher	28	0	28	9	0	9	-19
Great Spotted Woodpecker	171	0	171	172	0	172	1
Green Woodpecker	2	0	2	0	0	0	-2
Kestrel	1	75	76	2	82	84	8
Merlin	1	0	1	0	0	0	-1
Hobby	1	10	11	0	11	11	0
Peregrine	0	17	17	0	11	11	-6
Jay	30	0	30	40	0	40	10

Ringing totals	2017			2018			Year total diff
Species	FG	Pulli	Total	FG	Pulli	Total	
Magpie	29	7	36	21	2	23	-13
Chough	3	186	189	6	136	142	-47
Jackdaw	46	48	94	63	78	141	47
Rook	5	7	12	13	2	15	3
Carrion Crow	3	15	18	2	12	14	-4
Raven	0	2	2	3	7	10	8
Waxwing	89	0	89	0	0	0	-89
Coal Tit	706	103	809	607	104	711	-98
Marsh Tit	44	2	46	36	17	53	7
Willow Tit	34	21	55	56	5	61	6
Blue Tit	5328	2392	7720	5025	2621	7646	-74
Great Tit	1983	1181	3164	2029	1343	3372	208
Skylark	43	4	47	98	3	101	54
Sand Martin	145	0	145	171	17	188	43
Swallow	2883	665	3548	2695	455	3150	-398
House Martin	132	3	135	32	3	35	-100
Cetti's Warbler	158	0	158	94	2	96	-62
Long-tailed Tit	863	0	863	546	0	546	-317
Willow Warbler	2316	28	2344	1360	9	1369	-975
Chiffchaff	2560	19	2579	1498	0	1498	-1081
Wood Warbler	8	87	95	14	40	54	-41
Bonelli's Warbler	1	0	1	0	0	0	-1
Radde's Warbler	1	0	1	0	0	0	-1
Pallas's Warbler	1	0	1	0	0	0	-1
Yellow-browed Warbler	8	0	8	3	0	3	-5
Greenish Warbler	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Sedge Warbler	1874	3	1877	1742	5	1747	-130
Reed Warbler	1685	15	1700	1449	14	1463	-237
Blyth's Reed Warbler	0	0	0	2	0	2	2
Marsh Warbler	1	0	1	0	0	0	-1
Melodious Warbler	1	0	1	1	0	1	0
Grasshopper Warbler	83	6	89	34	0	34	-55
Blackcap	1695	15	1710	1990	14	2004	294
Garden Warbler	103	0	103	130	0	130	27
Barred Warbler	1	0	1	0	0	0	-1
Lesser Whitethroat	33	0	33	32	0	32	-1
Whitethroat	293	2	295	231	0	231	-64
Subalpine Warbler sp.	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Firecrest	52	0	52	8	0	8	-44
Goldcrest	2553	0	2553	732	0	732	-1821
Wren	1059	33	1092	819	54	873	-219
Nuthatch	144	204	348	121	199	320	-28
Treecreeper	109	3	112	104	5	109	-3
Starling	324	28	352	1134	25	1159	807

Ringing totals	2017			2018			Year total diff
Species	**FG**	**Pulli**	**Total**	**FG**	**Pulli**	**Total**	
Ring Ouzel	2	0	2	0	0	0	-2
Blackbird	1168	149	1317	905	108	1013	-304
Fieldfare	67	0	67	74	0	74	7
Redwing	2266	0	2266	1748	0	1748	-518
Song Thrush	422	62	484	205	44	249	-235
Mistle Thrush	9	6	15	13	0	13	-2
Spotted Flycatcher	58	37	95	80	23	103	8
Robin	1297	106	1403	937	49	986	-417
Bluethroat	3	0	3	1	0	1	-2
Pied Flycatcher	650	6290	6940	408	4453	4861	-2079
Black Redstart	3	0	3	1	0	1	-2
Redstart	63	448	511	54	292	346	-165
Whinchat	6	58	64	2	58	60	-4
Stonechat	108	51	159	33	15	48	-111
Wheatear	96	14	110	85	9	94	-16
Dipper	106	652	758	54	507	561	-197
House Sparrow	750	153	903	631	91	722	-181
Tree Sparrow	0	2	2	1	0	1	-1
Dunnock	830	22	852	715	39	754	-98
Yellow Wagtail	9	0	9	0	0	0	-9
Grey Wagtail	33	91	124	14	42	56	-68
Pied Wagtail	235	36	271	94	31	125	-146
(White Wagtail)	39	0	39	16	0	16	-23
Meadow Pipit	925	50	975	644	10	654	-321
Tree Pipit	43	12	55	17	4	21	-34
Water Pipit	1	0	1	0	0	0	-1
Rock Pipit	61	8	69	17	0	17	-52
Chaffinch	1900	2	1902	1569	9	1578	-324
Brambling	150	0	150	1288	0	1288	1138
Hawfinch	185	9	194	277	0	277	83
Bullfinch	625	11	636	311	3	314	-322
Greenfinch	583	1	584	431	5	436	-148
Twite	24	0	24	43	0	43	19
Linnet	632	10	642	557	14	571	-71
Lesser Redpoll	725	0	725	482	0	482	-243
Common Redpoll	1	0	1	1	0	1	0
Redpoll (Common/Lesser)	36	0	36	0	0	0	-36
Common Crossbill	0	0	0	8	0	8	8
Goldfinch	3336	11	3347	2854	5	2859	-488
Siskin	2958	0	2958	2241	0	2241	-717
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1	0	1	0	0	0	-1
Yellowhammer	149	0	149	79	0	79	-70
Lapland Bunting	1	0	1	0	0	0	-1
Reed Bunting	476	3	479	466	3	469	-10
TOTALS	**58,509**	**19,849**	**78,358**	**48,819**	**16,182**	**65,001**	**-13,357**

Sedge Warbler (Jonathan Bull)

Spotted Flycatcher (Tony Pope)

2018 selected recoveries

Below is a small selection of recoveries that stand out from the 23,554 re-encounters (recaptures, resightings or birds found dead) this year. The reports of note either involve long distances travelled, unusual species or longevity. 73% of re-encounters are by ringers, who are more likely to find a ringed bird but reports from the public are also important, particularly in areas less covered by ringers. Rings can also be read on live birds by members of the public, helping to 'fill in the gap' of the bird's life history. To report a ringed bird, go to **www.ring.ac**; you will receive details of the bird including where and when the bird was ringed.

Among the highlights are:

- A Storm Petrel ringed on Skokholm in early August and re-caught on the Faroe Islands just nine days later.
- The oldest known Little Tern in the world (yellow ZBA) that returned again to nest at Gronant.
- The oldest Puffin ever known in Britain & Ireland that was seen on Skomer, in its 42nd year.
- A Great Spotted Woodpecker that has been caught multiple times in the same Rhayader garden over 11 years.
- A Chough in Caernarfonshire that, at 17 years and 8 months, is the oldest ever known in Britain & Ireland.
- In Portugal, a metal detectorist found a ring that had been placed on the leg of a Pied Flycatcher in the Conwy Valley almost 25 years previously.

Codes used in the recoveries:

M	Male
F	Female
Pull.	Ringed as a pullus (nestling)
2	Fully-grown, year of hatching unknown
3(3J)	Hatched during the current calendar year (in juvenile plumage)
4	Hatched before the current calendar year, exact year unknown
5	Hatched during the previous calendar year
6	Hatched before the previous calendar year, exact year unknown
7	Hatched two years ago
8	At least three years, exact year unknown

Storm Petrel (2740650)

05/08/2018 Skokholm Island, PEMBROKE (4)
14/08/2018 Hvalnes, Skálavik, Sandoy, **Faroe Islands** 61°51'N 6°40'W
1131km N 0y 0m 9d Caught by ringer

Manx Shearwater (FR08892)

01/06/1980 Bardsey Island, CAERNARFON (4)
20/08/1999 Bardsey Island, CAERNARFON
02/04/2002 Bardsey Island, CAERNARFON
31/05/2006 Bardsey Island, CAERNARFON
06/08/2018 Bardsey Island, CAERNARFON
0km 38y 2m 5d Caught by ringer

Manx Shearwater (EA11076)

04/09/2018 Skokholm Island, PEMBROKE (3)
08/11/2018 Proa al Mar, Playa Hermosa, **Uruguay** 34°49'N 55°17'W
10,799km SSW 0y 2m 4d Found long dead (>1 week) on beach
[26th record for Uruguay]

Gannet (1365912)

17/07/2002 Scares, Luce Bay, Dumfries and Galloway (Pull.)
21/08/2018 Grassholm, PEMBROKE
331km S 16y 1m 4d Caught by ringer

Cormorant (5210011)

26/06/1999 Puffin Island, ANGLESEY (Pull.)
30/03/2018 River Wyre Estuary, Knott End-on-Sea, Lancashire
97km NE 18y 9m 4d Found fresh dead

Red Kite (GF74119)

12/06/1996 Confidential site, near Ponterwyd, CEREDIGION (Pull.)
05/04/2018 Nant-yr-Arian, Ponterwyd, CEREDIGION
0km 21y 9m 24d Colour ring sighting

Buzzard (GR01638)

09/02/2010 Llantrisant, E.GLAMORGAN (7)
11/04/2018 Glynfach, Porth, E.GLAMORGAN
4km NNW 8y 2m 2d Found long dead

Oystercatcher (FR38879)

06/06/1982 Wig, near Bangor, CAERNARFON (6)
10/04/2018 Wig, near Bangor, CAERNARFON
0km 35y 10m 4d Found dead with three other Oystercatchers

Golden Plover (DK38998)

25/10/2013 Clun Forest, Clun, Shropshire (3)
02/11/2018 Ynyslas NNR, CEREDIGION
62km W 5y 0m 8d Colour ring sighting

Ringed Plover (NV69376)

15/08/2015 Llanfairfechan, CAERNARFON (4F)
12/05/2018 Delta del Llobregat, Barcelona, **Spain** 41°17'N 2°07'E
1405km SSE 2y 8m 27d Colour ring sighting

Ringed Plover (848299)

12/10/2010 Breidafjordur, Austur-Bardastrandar, **Iceland** 65°22'N 22°55'W (Pull. F)
02/04/2018 Ynyslas NNR, CEREDIGION
1781km SE 7y 9m 21d Caught by ringer

Ringed Plover (NV69046)

06/09/2009 Wig, near Bangor, CAERNARFON (4)
28/08/2018 Llanfairfechan, CAERNARFON
5km E 8y 11m 22d Caught by ringer

Whimbrel (5132918)

02/05/2011 Cangas de Morrazo, Pontevedra, **Spain** 42°16'N 8°46'W (5M)
07/05/2018 Gann Estuary, Dale, PEMBROKE
1085km NNE 7y 0m 5d Colour ring sighting
[second record from Spain]

Whimbrel (EY08010)

15/05/2012 Llansantffraed, CEREDIGION (6)
15/05/2018 Exact location unknown, Sør-Trøndelag, **Norway** 63°16'N 9°03'E
1448km NNE 6y 0m 2d Long dead and taken by Eagle Owl
[first record to Norway]

Dunlin (BT16477)

13/02/2010 Bangor Harbour, CAERNARFON (6)
05/12/2010 Bangor Harbour, CAERNARFON
17/02/2018 Bangor Harbour, CAERNARFON
0km 8y 0m 4d Caught by ringer

Redshank (DK76930)

21/10/1999	Taff Estuary, E.GLAMORGAN (4)		
05/03/2018	Cardiff Heliport, E.GLAMORGAN		
	4km ENE	18y 4m 12d	Freshly dead, in poor condition due to cold weather

Kittiwake (584319)

21/07/2010	Breidafjordur, Austur-Bardastrandar, **Iceland** 65°22'N 22°55'W (Pull.)		
26/02/2018	Aberaeron, CEREDIGION		
	1796km NW	7y 7m 5d	Freshly dead on beach

Sandwich Tern (DK38118)

13/09/2015	Ynyslas, CEREDIGION (4)		
30/12/2018	Mile 4 Salt Works, **Namibia** 22°34'S 14°31'E		
	8539km SSE	3y 3m 17d	Colour ring sighting

Little Tern (NV38220)

08/07/1993	Near Gronant, FLINT (Pull.)		
16/07/2018	Near Gronant, FLINT		
	0km	25y 0m 8d	Colour ring sighting
	[new British & Irish longevity record]		

Common Tern (4H65734)

06/04/2013	La Somone, **Senegal** 14°28'N 17°03'W (4)		
10/05/2018	The Skerries, ANGLESEY		
	Recorded at same location on several dates to 08/06/2018		
	4465km NNE	5y 2m 2d	Colour ring sighting

Arctic Tern (ST95914)

06/07/2018	The Skerries, ANGLESEY (Pull.)		
05/11/2018	Base Navale de Grand-Popo, Cotonou, **Benin** 53°24'N 4°37'W		
	5269km S	0y 3m 30d	Dying from poor condition
		[second record to Benin]	

Razorbill (M64179)

05/06/1988	Bardsey Island, CAERNARFON (Pull.)		
12/06/2018	Bardsey Island, CAERNARFON		
	0km	30y 0m 16d	Caught by ringer

Puffin (EB43604)

02/07/1976	Skomer Island, PEMBROKE (Pull.)		
14/05/2018	Skomer Island, PEMBROKE		
	0km	41y 10m 12d	Colour ring sighting
	[new British & Irish longevity record]		

Great Spotted Woodpecker (RK96101)

17/03/2008	Nantmel, near Rhayader, RADNOR (4M)		
03/04/2018	Nantmel, near Rhayader, RADNOR		
	0km	10y 0m 17d	Caught by ringer
	[Caught six times at same location]		

Chough (ET91616)

15/06/2000	Confidential site, near Llithfaen, CAERNARFON (Pull.)		
15/02/2018	Confidential site near Waun Fawr, CAERNARFON		
	c.22km	17y 8m 0d	Caught by ringer
		[new British & Irish longevity record]	

Chiffchaff (193345)

20/05/2018	St Ouen's Bay, Jersey, **Channel Islands** 49°12'N 2°13'W (4F)		
07/06/2018	Skomer Island, PEMBROKE		
	356km NW	0y 0m 18d	Caught by ringer

Redwing (TC25399)

04/10/2018	Gumbaritsy, Leningrad O., **Russian Federation** 60°40'N 32°57'E (4)		
01/11/2018	Abermule, MONTGOMERY		
	2382km WSW	0y 0m 28d	Caught by ringer

Pied Flycatcher (H856152)

29/05/1993	near Rowen, CAERNARFON (Pull.)		
25/04/2018	near Alcobaça, Leiria, **Portugal** 39°36'N 9°01'W		
	1565km SSW	24y 10m 27d	Ring found while metal detecting

Redstart (S049327)

30/05/2016	Rhos-y-Brithdir, DENBIGH/MONTGOMERY (Pull.)		
29/04/2018	Essex Farm, Alderney, **Channel Islands** 49°43'N 2°10'W		
	350km SSE	1y 10m 30d	Caught by ringer

Dipper (RF56430)

01/04/2012	Dolwen, Llanidloes, MONTGOMERY (Pull.)		
12/10/2018	River Ithon, Esgairdraenllwyn, RADNOR		
	10km ESE	6y 6m 11d	Colour ring sighting 12 times
		[Longevity record is 8yrs 9 months for Dipper]	

Rock Pipit (2602191)

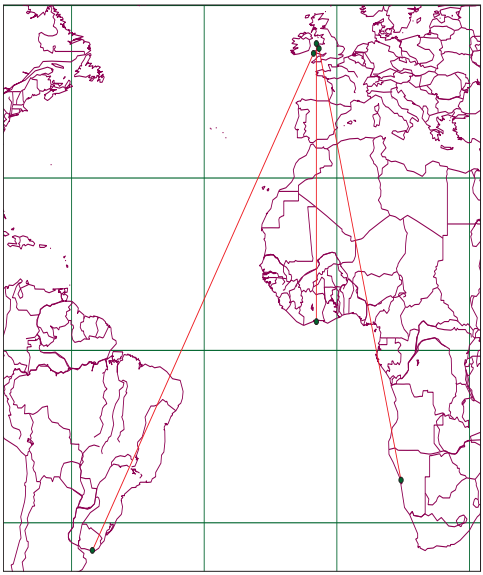
26/09/2008	Bardsey Island, CAERNARFON (3)		
26/01/2018	Bardsey Island, CAERNARFON		
	0km	9y 4m 0d	Colour ring sighting

Rock Pipit (EL00392)

09/09/2018	Maletangen, Møre og Romsdal, Fræna, **Norway** 62°58'N 7°03'E (3M)		
10/11/2018	Porthmadog, CAERNARFON		
	1293km SW	0y 2m 1d	Colour ring sighting

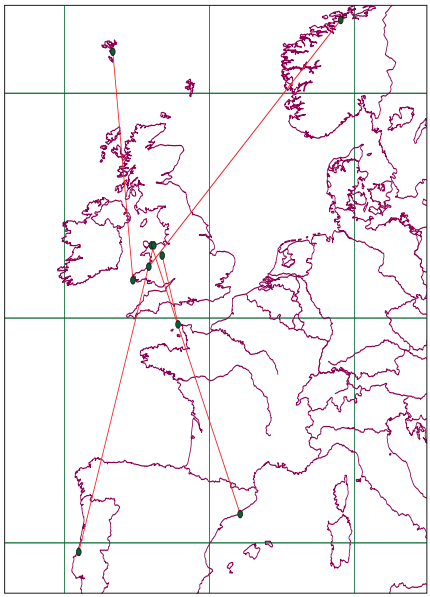
Brambling (1EX44328)

27/07/2018	Station, Abisko Naturvetensk, Abisko, **Sweden** 68°20'N 18°49'E (3)		
27/12/2018	Bryn Picca, Dolfor, MONTGOMERY		
	2130km SW	0y 5m 0d	Caught by ringer

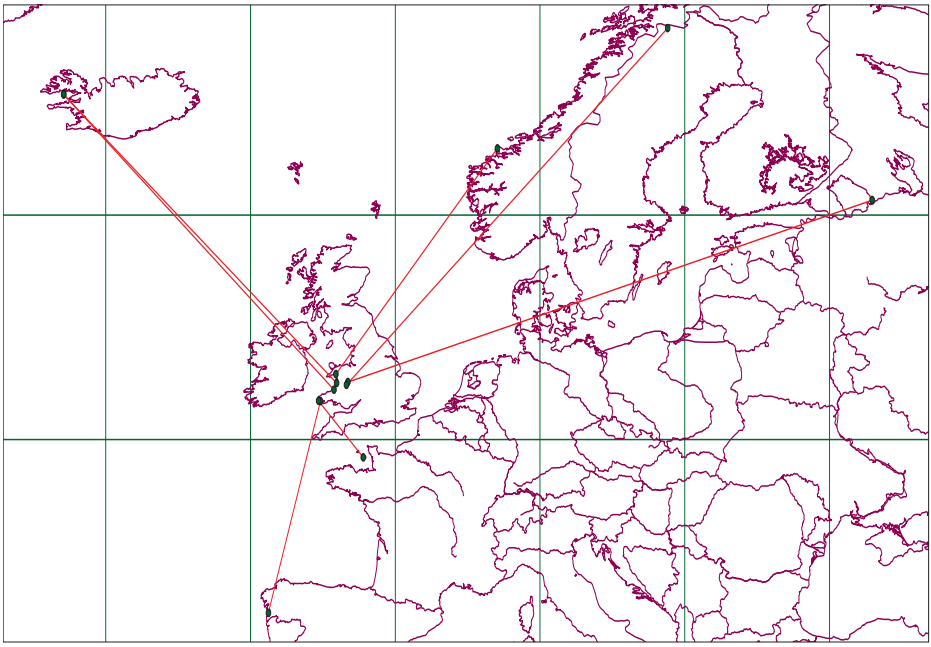


Birds ringed in Wales that were found outside Europe in 2018 (from west to east): 1. Manx Shearwater (Uruguay). 2. Arctic Tern (Benin). 3. Sandwich Tern (Namibia).

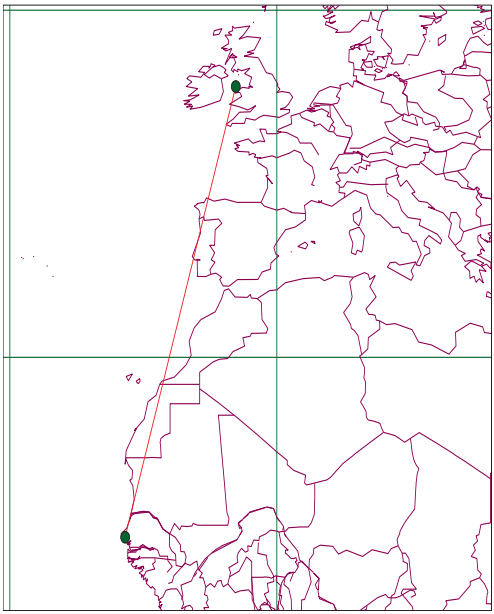
Birds ringed in Wales that were found outside Britain and Ireland, elsewhere in Europe in 2018 (from due north-east, clockwise): 1. Whimbrel (Norway). 2. Redstart (Alderney). 3. Ringed Plover (Spain). 4. Pied Flycatcher (Portugal). 5. Storm Petrel (Faroe Islands).



Birds ringed in Europe – excluding Britain and Ireland - that were found in Wales in 2018 (from due north-east, clockwise):
1. Rock Pipit (Norway). 2. Brambling (Sweden). 3. Redwing (Russia). 4. Chiffchaff (Jersey). 5. Whimbrel (Spain). 6. Kittiwake (Iceland). 7. Ringed Plover (Iceland).



Birds ringed outside Europe and found in Wales in 2018: Common Tern (Senegal).



Nest Record Scheme

4,670 Welsh nest records were sent to the BTO for 2018, slightly fewer than in 2017 (-361). Of the 90 species recorded, Blue Tit (1153) and Great Tit (585) were again in the top two, followed by Pied Flycatcher (456), Blackbird (195) and Swallow (187). Every nest record contributes to our knowledge of bird productivity, especially when found early in its development, so including first egg date, clutch size, number hatch and the nest outcome. The first Welsh Lesser Spotted Woodpecker record for some years was submitted, and records from a Crossbill and a Snipe nest were also very welcome. It is also good to see so many raptors and seabird nest records also submitted.

Notwithstanding this year's small decrease, the number of records submitted as part of the BTO Nest Record Scheme has increased in recent years, assisted by a number of training courses organised by volunteers in South Wales. The table below show the number of records per species recorded.

It takes several years to qualify as a ringer, due to the amount of information that needs to be learned and to make sure that bird welfare comes first. Nest recorders are highly skilled in monitoring nests, particularly for open nesting species, so we are grateful to the ringers and nest recorders in the area who have given up their time to study and catch wild birds.

Species	Records	Species	Records	Species	Records
Blue Tit	1153	Little Tern	23	Starling	5
Great Tit	585	Long-tailed Tit	21	Carrion Crow	5
Pied Flycatcher	456	Herring Gull	21	Ringed Plover	4
Blackbird	195	Pied Wagtail	19	Reed Bunting	4
Swallow	187	Goldfinch	18	Little Ringed Plover	4
Dipper	187	Tawny Owl	18	Chough	4
Barn Owl	185	Peregrine	18	Tree Sparrow	4
Red Kite	151	Coal Tit	17	Chiffchaff	3
Manx Shearwater	125	Blackcap	17	Swift	3
Kittiwake	115	Jackdaw	16	Rock Dove	3
Song Thrush	94	Mute Swan	16	Canada Goose	2
Redstart	88	Chaffinch	14	Mallard	2
Nuthatch	72	Willow Warbler	14	Long-eared Owl	2
House Sparrow	63	Kestrel	13	Jay	2
Oystercatcher	59	Stonechat	11	Garden Warbler	1
Coot	55	Raven	11	Tree Pipit	1
Goshawk	51	Buzzard	10	Marsh Tit	1
Robin	49	Great Spotted Woodpecker	9	Hen Harrier	1
Lesser Black-backed Gull	45	House Martin	8	Green Woodpecker	1
Shag	45	Great Crested Grebe	8	Ring Ouzel	1
Stock Dove	44	Treecreeper	7	Whinchat	1
Wren	36	Moorhen	7	Greylag Goose	1
Wood Warbler	35	Mistle Thrush	6	Honey-buzzard	1
Linnet	33	Black-headed Gull	6	Sparrowhawk	1
Nightjar	33	Bullfinch	6	Snipe	1
Dunnock	30	Spotted Flycatcher	5	Cuckoo	1
Woodpigeon	29	Hobby	5	Little Owl	1
Grey Wagtail	26	Osprey	5	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	1
Meadow Pipit	25	Skylark	5	Magpie	1

The Welsh List: A Checklist of Birds of Wales (3rd edition)

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Summary

This paper provides an update to the second edition of the *Checklist of Birds of Wales* (Thorpe and Stratford 2018). The list follows *The British List: A checklist of Birds of Britain* (9th edition). It also makes changes in line with recent decisions by the British Ornithologists' Union Records Committee (BOURC), the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC) and the Welsh Birds Rarities Committee (WBRC). The full list is available on the Welsh Ornithological Society website.

Introduction

This is the third edition of the Checklist of Birds of Wales, hereafter referred to as the Welsh List, and has been prepared as a statement of the status of those species that are known to have occurred in Wales and the surrounding seas (up to 12 nautical miles). It incorporates all records up to 31 December 2018, extracted from Lovegrove *et al*. (1994), Green (2002) and from subsequent records detailed in Welsh Bird Reports (WOS).

The Welsh List

The Welsh List is the list of birds recorded in Wales, maintained by the Welsh Ornithological Society (WOS) through the Welsh Birds Rarities Committee (WBRC). Records have only been included after acceptance by the British Ornithologists' Union Records Committee (BOURC) and/or the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC).

The Welsh List (third edition) can be viewed on the WOS website (**https://birdsin.wales/overview-of-birds-in-wales/welsh-rare-birds-committee/**). For each species, the list includes the English vernacular name, Welsh name and scientific name, and each is assigned to a Species Category and Species Status (see Thorpe and Stratford 2018 for full details).

It is intended that the Welsh List will be kept under regular review by the WBRC, with new species added, and potentially some removed following re-assessment. There remain a few issues to resolve over the racial identity of some species, but these do not impact on the assignment of species to categories.

Taxonomy, English and Welsh names

In maintaining the Welsh List, the WBRC relies on the International Ornithological Congress for all decisions regarding taxonomic issues and on the BOURC for English names. Welsh names follow those used in the Welsh Bird Report.

The Welsh List changes since the second edition (2018)

SNOW GOOSE *Anser caerulescens*. In earlier editions of the list, this species is listed under category E (Escape). As there is an established naturalised population in Great Britain, Snow Goose should be treated in Wales in the same way as species such as Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca* and Ring-necked Parakeet *Psittacula krameri* and is therefore placed in Category C5 – a species from established naturalised populations in other parts of Great Britain or abroad. This species is added to Category C of the Welsh List.

HOODED MERGANSER *Lophodytes cucullatus*. 2CY+ male at Kidwelly Quay, Carmarthenshire, on 7 Oct. 2018. This species is added to Category A of the Welsh List.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa limosa*. 2CY at Penclacwydd, Carmarthenshire, from 1 June to 1 August 2011. Ringed as a chick in Zwolle, Netherlands, on 5 July 2010. This subspecies is added to Category A of the Welsh List.

COAL TIT *Periparus ater ater*. Two on Bardsey, Caernarfonshire, on 14 May 2018. This subspecies is added to Category A of the Welsh List.

The number of species recorded in Wales (as of 31 December 2018), within each category, is now as follows:

Category	Total
A	431
B	7
C	12
Total	**450**

In addition, there are two changes to Category E of the Welsh List from the second edition (2018):

CACKLING GOOSE *Branta hutchinsii*. 3CY+ at Llanishen Reservoir, Cardiff, East Glamorgan, on 22 April 2012. This species is added to Category E of the Welsh List.

PIED CROW *Corvus albus*. One at St Justinians, Pembrokeshire, on 3-7 July 2018. This species is added to Category E of the Welsh List.

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Acknowledgements

The production of the list would not have been possible without the excellent work undertaken by the authors of the published references cited above and the work of the Welsh Birds Rarities Committee, British Birds Rarities Committee and local Bird Club committees in assessing records of birds in Wales. In addition thanks to Gary Harper for providing the details of the 2011 *limosa* Black-tailed Godwit.

County and other bird reports 2018

This report is compiled from the county bird reports for 2018:

Gwent Bird Report 2018. Editor: John Coleman.
Available from Andrew Cormack, 29 Chestnut Drive, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire NP7 5JZ. Price £10 + £1.50 for p&p. Cheques payable to the Gwent Ornithological Society.

Eastern Glamorgan Bird Report 2018. Editor: John Wilson.
Available from the Editor, 122 Westbourne Road, Penarth, Vale of Glamorgan CF64 3HH. Price: £9 + £1.72 for p&p. Cheques payable to Glamorgan Bird Club.

Gower Birds - the birds of Swansea and Neath Port Talbot 2018. Co-editor: Robert E Tallack.
Available from the Editor, 1 Woodside Close, Killay, Swansea SA2 7ED. Price: £7. Cheques payable to Gower Ornithological Society.

Carmarthenshire Bird Report 2018. Editor: Rob Hunt.
Available from Wendell Thomas, 48 Glebe Road, Loughor, Swansea SA4 6QD. Cheque for £7.28 (includes postage) payable to Carmarthenshire Bird Club.

Pembrokeshire Bird Report 2018. Editor: Jon Green.
Available online at **http://pembrokeshirebirdgroup.blogspot.com/p/reports.html**

Ceredigion Bird Report 2018. Editor: Arfon Williams.
Available from the Editor, Abernaint, Ffarmers, Llanwrda, Carmarthenshire, SA19 8JR. Cheque for £5 +£1.50 for p&p, payable to A.Williams.

Breconshire Bird Report 2018. Editor: Andrew King.
Available from WTSWW (Brecon office), 6 The Bulwark, Brecon, Powys LD3 7LB. Price £7 + £1.50 p&p.

Cambrian Bird Report 2018 (Anglesey, Caernarfon and Meirionnydd). Editor: John Small.
Available from Geoff Gibbs, Fron Wen, Valley Road, Llanfairfechan, LL33 0ET. Price £7.20 including postage, cheque payable to Cambrian Ornithological Society.

North-East Wales Bird Report 2018 (Denbighshire and Flintshire). Editor: Ian Spence.
Available from **brnw.cymru**. Price £6 + £2 p&p.

Other Bird Reports

Bardsey's Wildlife 2018.
Available from Steve Stansfield, Bardsey Bird & Field Observatory, Cristin, Bardsey Island, Gwynedd LL53 8DE. Price £12.50 inc. p&p.

Skokholm Bird Observatory Annual Report 2018.

Skomer Island Bird report 2018.
Available online at **welshwildlife.org/reports/wtsww-publications-and-reports-2018/**

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